SUNDAY
January 15, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
28 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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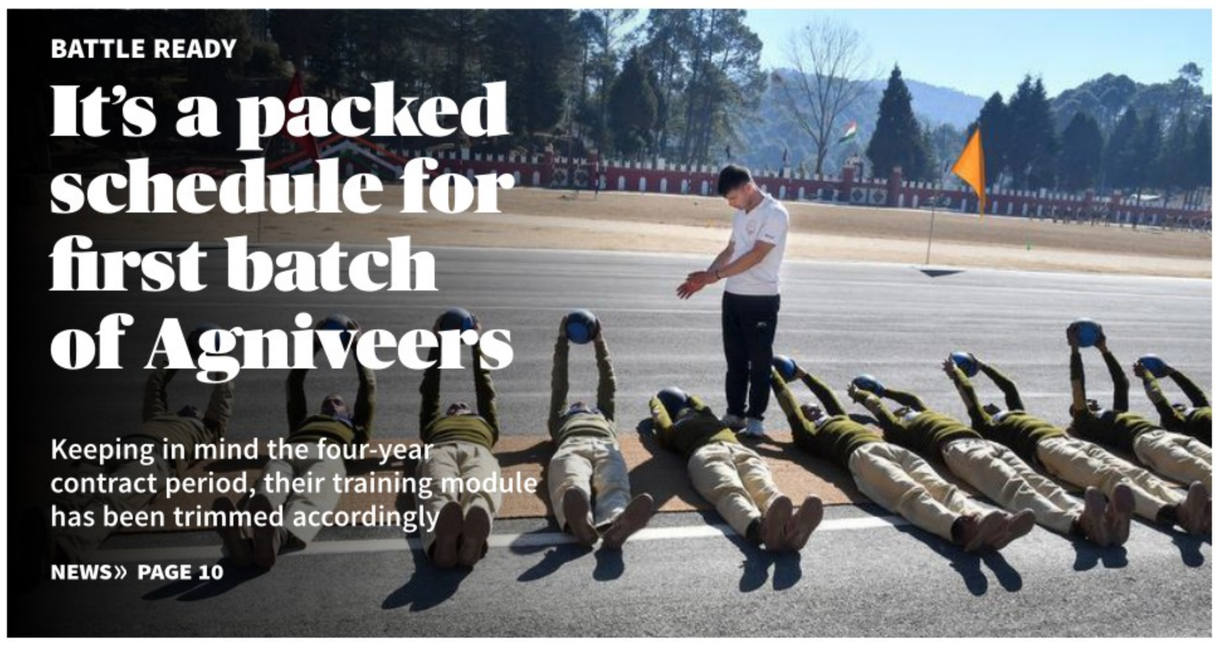

BATTLE READY

It's a packed schedule for first batch of Agniveers

Keeping in mind the four-year contract period, their training module has been trimmed accordingly

NEWS» PAGE 10

Six women artists discuss their canvas, voice and world view

MAGAZINE » PAGE 1

Exit of China's most famous 'wolf warrior' triggers debate

PROFILES » PAGE 14

Rampant Netherlands coasts past Malaysia in Hockey World Cup

SPORT » PAGE 16

Govt. arms civilians in border villages

With heightened terror activity in Jammu, the CRPF is reviving Village Defence Committees that were disbanded in the early 2000s

Vijaita Singh
SUNDERBANI

Amid chants of *Bharat Mata ki jai*, 23-year-old Anju Devi lifts a .303 bore rifle. Braving the cold and incessant rain, she and 50 other women and men have assembled at a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp at Sunderbani, close to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), in Jammu to learn how to fire a weapon in self-defence.

In a large hall, head constable Pradeep lays out a mat and fixes a target board. "Put one foot forward, turn your body 45 degrees and then aim. Keep changing positions, don't fire from the same place," he urges them at the top of his voice.

Just a two-hour drive from Sunderbani in Rajouri district is Dangri village, where seven Hindus, including two children, were killed in twin terror strikes this month.

"We will pick up guns to protect our village, our country. We have to fight the Pakistanis," says Bacchan Kaur, head of Talatanda village.

Holding her nine-month-old son, another trainee Kanchan Kumari says: " We are ordinary farmers. It is better to learn how to fire, it may help in future. We are not scared to die for the country."

Fire power: Women learn firing at a CRPF camp in Rajouri district of J&K. VIJAITA SINGH

Ms. Kaur and Ms. Kumari are not isolated voices. Hundreds of villagers in Rajouri and Poonch districts of the Pir Panjal Valley have been imparted basic arms training by the CRPF and the Army over the past week as part of a government policy to revive the Village Defence Committees (VDCs). This has picked up pace after the Rajouri attack.

The committees had been disbanded in the early 2000s amid allegations of crimes, including abduction and rape, committed by its members.

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Convicted Lakshadweep MP Faizal disqualified

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Lok Sabha Secretariat has disqualified Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal after he was jailed in an attempt-to-murder case.

Mr. Faizal, who belongs to the Nationalist Congress Party, and three others were sentenced to 10-year rigorous imprisonment early this week for attacking Mohammed Salih of the Congress during the 2009 Lok Sabha election.

He ceased to be an MP from Wednesday, the date of his conviction.

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Don't share details of Joshimath survey with media: NDMA

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

After the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said in a report that Joshimath sank 5.4 cm between December 27 and January 8, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Friday directed all departments and organisations involved in survey and data collection in the Uttarakhand town hit by land subsidence not to interact with the media or share data on social media.

"Various government institutions are releasing data related to the subject matter (Joshimath) on social media and are interacting with media with their own interpretations. It is creating confusion not only among the affected residents but also among citizens of the country," the NDMA said.

A scientist surveying a house in Joshimath on Saturday. ANI

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NEARBY

CM: Will do justice for Panchamasalis

HARIHAR/BENGALURU
Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who has come under pressure from Panchamasalis to increase reservation for it, on Saturday promised to ensure justice for the community as soon as the government receives the final report of the Permanent Backward Classes Commission. He accused the Congress of trying to take mileage out of caste politics. » Page 6

MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Bommai to present women-centric State Budget on Feb. 17

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said that he would present a women-centric and pro-people Budget for 2023-24 on February 17, which will, among other things, have a scheme to provide assistance to women to manage expenses of their households.

The government is formulating schemes for providing benefits to the labour class and women who had been adversely impacted by COVID-19 during the past two years, he told presspersons here.

CONTINUED ON
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Grand spectacle

Thousands of devotees witnessed the three-chariot festival, organised by Sri Krishna Mutt, to mark Makar Sankranti on Car Street in Udupi on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Doctor *didis*' creating social capital in rural Jharkhand

Amarnath Tewary
RANCHI

In Agra village, about 45 km from Ranchi, Janu Devi, 27, dressed in her blue sari uniform, is excited about the ice box she has just received. She's one of five women from the *pashu sakhi* – meaning friend of the animals – community in Jharkhand's Tamar block office to get the box that stores vaccination vials for goats, poultry, and pigs.

Devi is part of a team of about a thousand women across all 24 districts of Jharkhand, recruited since October 2013, for last mile coverage of livestock management. These women, formally called community animal care service providers and informally known as doctor *didis*, go door to door when they are called. They advise farmers about health check-ups for their livestock, vaccinations, deworming, hygiene, breeding, feeding, and the management of animal waste.

Animal care service provider Janu Devi. MANOB CHOWDHARY

The project was conceived under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, to create a line of community resource persons. In 2017-18, the Jharkhand Opportunities for Harnessing Rural Growth (JOHAR) took the project under its wing and the World Bank began funding it. World Bank data says up to 57,000 farmers benefit from the project.

CONTINUED ON
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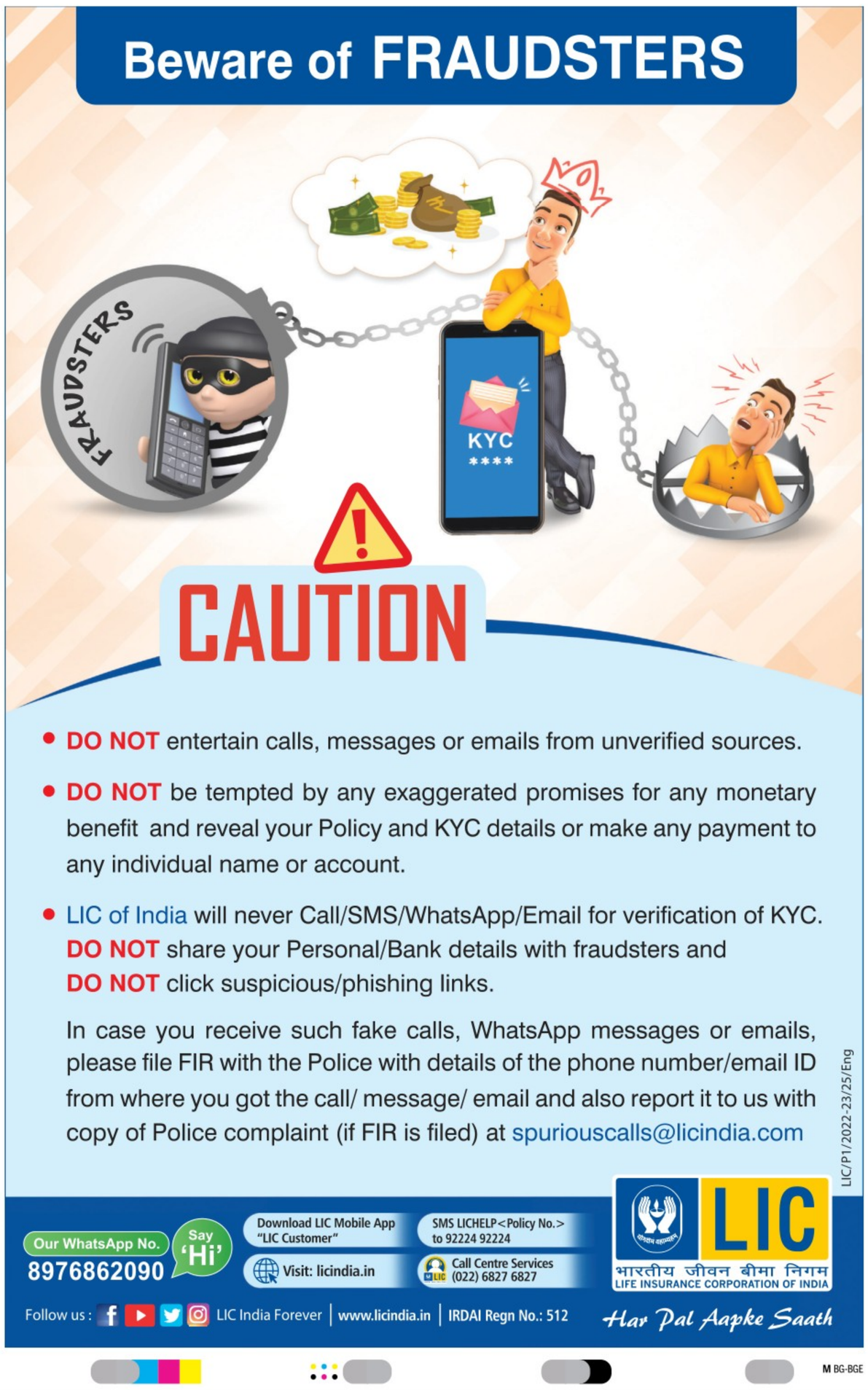

Lending their voice: Indigenous people, supporters of Brazil's then President Jair Bolsonaro, take part in a protest against President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, for freedom and against censorship in Brasilia. REUTERS

Police officers stand guard as Bolsonaro supporters gesture during a protest after Supreme Court judge Alexandre de Moraes ordered a temporary arrest warrant of indigenous leader Jose Acacio Serere Xavante for alleged anti-democratic acts in Brasilia. REUTERS

Playing with fire A bus is seen on fire as Bolsonaro supporters protest after Supreme Court judge Alexandre de Moraes ordered a temporary arrest warrant of indigenous leader Jose Acacio Serere Xavante for alleged anti-democratic acts. REUTERS

Shock surge in Brasilia

Bolsonaro's exit rings similar to Trump's with supporters attacking revered state institutions

The similarities between Donald Trump and Jair Bolsonaro refused to cease even after both men were voted out of power. Mr. Trump, the former U.S. President, did not immediately concede his election defeat, questioning the authenticity of the 2020 elections, while his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

In Brazil, Mr. Bolsonaro, the far-right politician who was voted out late last year, refused to publicly concede, while his supporters were staging violent protests in Brasilia. On January 8, a week after Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the leftist Workers Party leader who beat Mr. Bolsonaro, was sworn in, the latter's supporters stormed Brazil's institutional trinity – the presidential palace, the Supreme Court and Congress.

The protesters demanded the military to shut down Lula's government and wrest control of the country. In a relatively young democracy that saw a violent military dictatorship for 20 years from 1964, the invasion of institutions posed a significant challenge to Lula's presidency. Things appear to be under control, as of now. The military has not paid any attention to the calls for a coup. Federal security personnel have cleared the government building of rioters.

Even Mr. Bolsonaro had to decry the storming of the institutions. The Supreme Court has stepped in, ordering the military police to remove the camps of Bolsonaro supporters, removing Brasilia's provincial chief, a Bolsonaro ally and authorising probe into Mr. Bolsonaro.

But the incident also shows how divided Brazilian society is, which could pose profound challenges to Lula, who, in his third term, has promised to tackle income inequality and get the economy back on track.

Palace coup Riot police tackle Bolsonaro supporters as they invade the Presidential Palace in Brasilia. AFP

Classifieds

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
Classification Common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms
ASSAMESE
AWADHI
BENGALI
BHOJPURI
BIHARI
CHHATTISGARHI
ENGLISH
GUJARATI
HARYANI
HINDI
KANNADA
KASHMIRI
KONKANI
MALAYALAM
MANIPURI
MARATHI
MARWARI
NEPALI
ORIYA
PARSI
PUNJABI
SAURASHTRA
SINDHI
TAMIL
TELUGU
TULU
URDU
ADVOCATE
BUSINESS
DEFENCE
DOCTOR
ENGINEER
FINANCE/ BANKING
GOVERNMENT/ QUASI-GOVERNMENT
IAS/ ALLIED SERVICES
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MBA/ CA/ ICWA
NRI
COSMOPOLITAN
DIVORCEE
PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED
MARRIAGE BUREAUS
WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COSMOPOLITAN

BE/92/5'1" MUM girl wkng MNC seeks kind, broad–minded PQSM upto 33 yrs. Dad–Telugu, Mom–Tamil. Caste no bar. No dowry. sm3dec2022@gmail.com

DOCTOR

DOCTOR GIRL, MD Anesthesiology, 33, 165 fair, pretty, well mannered and cultured, well placed, Chennai based doctor family. Father doctor Kerala Nair, Mother Tamil CSI. MD, MS, MCh boys from good families preferred. Ct: 9840050381/ 9840985383

PARENTS OF good looking doctor 91 born Gavara Naidu MBBS MS (OBS & GYN) seeks suitable well settled groom (PG doctor/ super speciality) Subsect no bar please mail BHP to doctorrgm@gmail.com

THE HINDU
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ENGINEER

MATCH FOR Smart, Fair, Slim Nai Girl 27/5ft 4inch M.Arch. Working in New Delhi. Preferred Doctor/Engineer/Officer. WhatsApp: 9319928449

HINDU NADAR Divorced 32yr 1990 M.E IT. Divorced Groom from same Caste& Good Family& Background 9445614753

HINDI

✔ **5'5" HEIGHT,28 years,Very fair, BTech(CSE)+MBA, HR Manager in company. Dhobi girl. Contact:09667459401**

MALAYALAM

NAIR GIRL @ Chennai 26/147 BE Chadayam/Chevva Dosam Seeks grooms Nair /menon Family:9840944880/ 9447696424

NAIR GIRLS 35 MD, Makayiram and 30 MBBS, Makam, both working in Delhi, parents settled in Kerala. Contact: 9434289192 (not bureau)

NAMBIAR, 42, MDS, Employed in US, seek well educated , US based match. 9444000825. chalil_50@yahoo.co.in

EZHAVA GIRL, Fair, DOB 28/10/1994, 09.44 AM, doing MD (GYNEC), 2nd Year in Cenral Govt. Medical College, New Delhi. Proposals from Doctors / Professionals. Mob: 8281425422

MBBS, DGO (Doing MS), Ezhava girl, Makam, 32, seeks alliance from MBBS/PG Doctors/MS Engineers/ Gazetted officers. Mob: 9048 443 292

TAMIL

RC CHRISTIAN 39/157cm; B.E; M.B.A; MNC Manager, re–marriage from educated & settled family seeks professionally qualified teetotaller groom less than or equals to 44yrs from TN Christian family. Ph 9842260597.

BORN AGAIN Christian, Canadian Citizen 50yrs, Fair, Youngish, innocent Divorcee needs Born Again Christian Groom Settled in Canada. Email: draj220466@gmail.com

SEEKING Protestant born again and qualified groom for a Christian born again girl- 28yrs, 152cm BDS, MPH: currently working in Delhi. Contact: 98940 40344, 98954 55595.

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

BRIDEGROOM WELL educated well settled age 31 to 35, for a Nadar Christian girl MBA fair, beautiful from a rich family ,working in a Multinational Company with good salary in Chennai. Parents Contact. 9790787919.

SC/AD CSI 38/165 M.Sc., M.P.H, Working as Consultant in Word Bank, Washington DC Seeks Suitable Groom, Well qualified working in USA. Caste Religion No Bar. 98844 39700.

RC NADAR, (Caste No Bar) 32/156, B.Tech., Working in Canada, having Canadian PR. Cell : 75388 0223

SAIVAPILLAI, 31/171 Good Looking, M.E, MNC,Free Lancing 6L/p/a very Fair seeks Groom Abroad or India Pure Veg,Well Qualified or B.E, Income 1L/p/m.Sub–casteNoBar (VEG) only Ct: 9940047272/ 9443282325/ ragavan2207@gmail.com

HINDU SAIVA Pillai Bride, 1987 Born, Magham, Veg, Beautiful, U.S. Educated, Senior Economist seeks Groom aged 36-39yrs, Smart, Veg, Highly Qualified, settled Professional preferebly based in Mumbai. Contact: 9994022477

VEG GIRL Telugu Karthigai 39/156 MCom, B.Ed. Chennai Seeks employed Reputed Co Groom. Caste No Bar – Preferred BC, MBC. Ct: 8056012713

✔ **HINDU–NADAR** AGE 24,B.Arch.Sathayam–Kumbam,seeks well qualified Employed India/Abroad .9884398959

HINDU DEVAR 36, BE, 166cm, USA Monthly Income:3,00,000 Seeks Groom.Caste No Bar. 8939691888 / 9710093999

47/163 MUDALIAR/PILLAI, M.com, MBA, Seeks Qualified Unmarried Below 50, Clean habits, CNB. Ct: 9176774676/ 9500113136 anbumatri@gmail.com

✔ **PILLAI/ MUDALIAR** B.E/ Kettai / MNC 25 Reputed Business family seeks Alliance Ph : 98400 93322

SC HINDU 33/172 Manager Govt Bank Divorced (Unconsummated Marriage) . Contact: 8939574245

TAMIL

CHETTIAR 27/163 BE Remarriage Ch seeks Prof/Business Groom CNB Chennai. Geetham 9884858014

SPIRITUALLY RENOWNED person seeks alliance for his daughter/ SC/ AD/ 30/ M.Tech/ Bank Officer/ Revathy/ Meenam/ Innocent Divorcee, lived together for 18 days, Divorcees excuse, caste no bar, suitable grooms apply. saadhusundar@gmail.com

CHETTIAR/ MUDALIAR: 27/ 173, V Fair, B.Tech, Affluent Business Family, Coimbatore, seeks suitable groom from similar background Ct. 8939012419 , 9994915406

HINDU NADAR Girl, age 28, Ht 168 cms, Thiruvathirai, Mithunam, M.E., Asst.Professor, Upper middle class seeks equally qualified boy, well settled. Contact: 9626515511.

DOCTOR MBBS 28/163 good looking, Devendra Kulam working in Private Hospital, Chennai seeks Alliance from Doctor/other Profns CNB. 8668118107

SEEKING ALLIANCE only from Hindu Vanniyar Doctor grooms (M.B.B.S, MD/MS).Girl MBBS,MS (Opthal) Age 31 yrs.(May 1991)Poorattathi 2 pathamContact 9486726066 Chennai

THULUVA VELLALA Mudaliar Girl 31/ 160cm P.G. Employed in IT, Chennai Kirthigai. Seeks groom Ct: 9445505491

AGE 47, PhD, OBC, central government, good looking, wheatish, never married bride seeks never married, well–educated, employed groom from decent family background. Details can be exchanged upon mutual interest; Contact: 9443553063

MUDALIAR 26 years fair good looking OG PG seeks chennai, doctors, surgeons preferable ct: 8056066266

HINDU/SC.AD, 27/5'2" MCA, TA @ Infosys, 10L/p.a. Simmam/Magam. Same Caste Groom from Chennai. 9840365908

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR 31/165 Mirugasirisam Raghu in Lagnam, PG Working HR MNC Seeks MS/M.Tech Groom 9176780777

BALIJA NAIDU 34, 165cm, B.com, ML/ BL Inc 75000PM Seeks Suitable Groom.Caste No Bar. 9710093999/ 8939691888

HINDU NADAR 32/155 BE SWE IAM Cyber Security Bangalore AccentureUK. pooram Suitable Groom 9442126376

HINDU SC B.Com 24 Yrs Mirugasirisham / Midhunam,Rich Looking for Govt or MNC,CNB,Chennai Only. 93421 13144

HINDU/SC/AD/30/160 BE, MS in USA, employed in USA H1B visa seeks suitable groom from USA/CANADA/UK or willing to settle in USA/CANADA/UK. Ct: 9945223333

MUDALIAR, 31/155CMS B.Com., MBA Live in Chennai. Star – Kiruthigai–1, Employed. Seeks like minded and well educated groom. Ct: 9940034554

WORKING PROFESSIONAL, Tuluva Vellal Mudaliar Good looking Girl 35 Uthirattathy, Meenam, Family Seeks Alliance from First and Unmarried Bachelor Bridegroom Aged 35–37 Yrs, Employed, Caste no bar. Contact: After 4 PM; 7550245659

TAMIL IYER Vadamal Srivatsam Hastham Age 29 58kg 165cm M. S.(CS) Job:Bay Area, CA,USA.Seeks Groom from Same Area or Relocation Ct:7358206848

WANTED UK residing financially well settled bridegroom. Age max.28 years,Tamil IYER For a Northern Ireland employed bride. Kowshiga gothram, Age 24 years. Contact: 95002 59111

BRIDE GROOM WANTED TAMIL MUSLIM
Age 42/161, B.Com., Fair., Divorcee No Issues. Seeking Bridegroom, Age Below 47 years
Ph: 7299780379

GROOM WANTED
DOCTOR MBBS MD
Working in NHS London 38/167 Fair Tamil Protestant CSI Christian Nadar BC Innocent Divorcee no issues seeks Christian Doctor Groom/well settled Professionals in UK/ India. Caste no bar
Ph: 98435 26370

SAIVA PILLAI 1974 B.Sc MA seeks Educated and well settled Groom with good family background. 9894548428

RC NADAR Girl M.E, 33/5.7, Fair, Software Engineer seeks BC/FC Groom. Call /whatsApp: 9886888775

BRIDES WANTED

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

Software Architect in Bengaluru, 25 Lakhs pa, 35 Yrs /175 Cms, Hindu Pillai (CNB), Moolam, NV, 07397506343, vimsn@yahoo.com

COSMOPOLITAN

ALLIANCE INVITED for a 46 Year old ,172 cm, 68kg, manager, divorcee 1 month marriage, CNB, no demands Email : hereiam_hi@yahoo.com Ph: 9677776525

DIRECTOR, CEO, Tamil, Malayalam, Christian, Divorcee with 14 years Daughter, Rich & Affluent family 56 years, India / USA, seeks suitable Qualified Bride around 40Yrs. CT: 96009-18842, selsmr@yahoo.co.in

MUSLIM 59 Officer 1.5 LPM Independent Single Healthy needs an Independent Educated Healthy Single – No Bars – No Mediation 8125651881

DIVORCEE

H'SME NADAR BOY 5'4"/35 B.Tech; Working as Soft Engg in an MNC; Seeking NADAR Fair, Educated reputed family girl. Contact:emphaticway@gmail.com

ENGINEER

28 /5FT 8inch BTech, ME (BITS Pilani) Sr. Mechanical Eng. in Stellantis (MNC) Pune, Caste No Bar, Mob: 9413171014

WANTED EDUCATED bride, for Tamil Iyengar, 32, 5ft 9inch BE, MS ,Senior position in MNC , Bangalore Reply to Whatsapp 9840994905

HINDU, NAIDU, 26 yrs, ME(IT), Employed Canada, father late Central Govt retd, one younger brother Engineer, seeks Engineer bride. Whatsapp.8148644516.

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

MENON YOUTH 45/181 Divorced, Financially sound, B.Tech, MBA, FMSPI working in MNC at Kochi as Deputy General Manager. 9633001187.

THIYA MDS 32/167, Uthram Third Generation Dentist in 1950 Estabilished clinic looking for MDS/MBBS girl. CT: 98433-98432, 72004-72221.

TAMIL

Brahmin,Author 70 matured, divorced well settled. Widow above 50, decent, Educated. Whats App: 82208 22951

CHETTIAR 39/173 Slim BTech MS USA Elite Family seeks Er Bride below 35Yrs US/India CNB Geetham 9884858014

TAMIL MUSLIM Doctor age 28, 5.7 fair, reputed family well settled seeks good looking doctor bride wanted. Contact : 98411 38181

PREFERRED BRAHMIN girl, Fair & handsome boy (koushigam brahmin) 5 ft 9 inch (08/04/1991 6:54 pm) ME CS (PhD) wrk: Asst Prof kalasalingam Univ (10LPA) Madurai Ph 9840780825.

CNB, 33 / 182 M.E Handsome Govt 6.6 PA Meesham / Ashwini Seeks Suitable Girl Ct: 9962533302 / 9894789830

RC VELLALA Mudaliar: 30/Handsome,B.Tech, MBA, Textile Business, Chennai, Only son, Well settled Family – Seeks Bride Any Degree – 9840573419

Mudaliyar 30Yrs ME., Ph.D poosam fair handsome Boy well educated, well settled family seek Doctor, Engineers from a good family. CT: 9443428948.

AGE 41,SAIVA Mudaliar, Divorcee, B.E (SW), Abroad, Ct : 9841281948

HINDU NADAR, First marriage Baskar (36) 175cm, MBA, 1.5L P / Month including business and rent, Suitable bride from Chennai. 9382603744

AGAMUDAIYAR, 33 / 182, B.Tech, Simmam / Pooram, GTR Interior & Construction – Ch, Seeks Suitable Educated Bride. Ct: 9841865651, 9843421312

BROKERS EXCUSE. Seeking educated professional girl with good family values for Hindu Tamil boy, born Jan 1989, 5"6, IT Professional with Masters degree working in Top MNC in Melbourne. Caste No Bar. WhatsApp Photo & Biodata to 9840509420.

MUDALIAR (CNB) 29/180 Handsome,B.Tech, MS,Project Manager,USA, 100000dollar PA,Affluent Family Seeks Bride USA/Canada 9444039984, 7358510790

USA BASED Software Architect , Age 48, looking for good looking & fair girl, age from 40 to 45 tamil speaking family oriented girl interested to settle in US after marriage. Preferred for widow women. kindly share your bio data with photo to whatsapp number 9080400330.

MUDALIYAR 30YRS/MS /Thiruvonam, Meena Rasi working in US in IT Sector Well to Do Family with his Assests Worth in Crores.Seeks Bride 9840456644(only Whats App call), 9840636662

NAIDU, 36, BE, MBA, Bank Officer, Seeks Bride Good Family from South Tamilnadu, Avoid If already contacted. 9443172955

GROOM 41 - 173cm - Employed and Business. Well settled Good family Seeking Bride - caring - educated. Caste no bar- widowed / divorced also welcome. Ph: 88255 55545 email: talentashok500@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR, Nov 1981 born, 5.7', Purattathi, M.Tech Ph.D (IIT), native of Madurai, Clean habits, MNC Bangalore, Divorcee (without issue) seeks suitable family oriented Bride / Divorcee (without issue). Send BHP to: 9843149380

30, 174, Wheate, Asst.Dir, MSME, Hasthem, Saiva Vellalah, Same cast, well educated/working Bride. isaikumar@yahoo.com

Engineer IITIAN 6'2 Mudaliar born in Nov 91 Techinical Lead at Hyderabad in Top MNC Sal 60 >lacs seeks Bride 5' 4 Engineer,CA Doctor. 7382620365

HINDU NADAR, 38/185, M.Tech (IIT Madras), Principal Engineer (Chip Design) in an MNC in Bangalore, eggetarian, seeks educated, never married, suitable bride (30–35 yrs) . Caste No Bar, Ct: 9840117920.

WELL–TO–DO GROOM needs educated/ uneducated Bride, First & Suitable Remarriage, Life companion 7200754946

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR 33/170 Mirugasirisam, M.Sc IT Working in MNC, No Dhosham, Seeks BE/PG Bride. 9176780777.

US CITIZEN Tamil Mudaliyar 61 yr, Divorced No encumbrances Seeks Bride (40–46 yr) Fit educated teetotaler Caste / Lang No bar Email: kanishka1961@gmail.com / pH: +91 9363580695

PILLAI 32/173 Pooram ME ML Advocate Chennai seeks working Pillai/ Mudaliar Bride Geetham 9884858014

1984 BORN MUDALIAR Boy 180cm Specialist Dentist –MDS working for Saudi Govt. 40L/PA seeks suitable Fair Bride 7401452315/ 9444126854/ muppudathi.s@gmail.com

IYER DIVORCEE Boy Vadoolam Thiruvonam 48/168 Director IT MNC Seeks Iyer/ Iyengar Graduate Girl Divorcee/ Widow without Issues. 9841942915.

THONDAI MANDALA Saiva Mudaliar 32 / MS working in Boston seeking a suitable bride in US. Ph 9789037876

HINDU NADAR/ Fair/ Good Looking /11.12.88 / Msc Economic History at LSE (London) , MA Economic and business at Columbia University (USA) Merit Scholarship/ Now working at Chennai/194cm/ Pooradam–2/ Thanusu Rasi/ Kumba lagnam/Two sisters Married/ Own House in Chennai. Seeks an Educated Girl from a Decent Family. Ct: Raghavan 9884411818.

MUDALIAR 29, M.Tech, 178cm, 22 Lacs P.A, Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB.Ct: 8778514465 / 7200866346

HINDU NADAR 27, 175cm, MBBS/MS (Ortho), Income 100000 PM, Seeks Suitable Bride KA.Raman Nadar 93807 91999

WANTED BRIDE with Graduate or Post graduate qualification in any arts or commerce subject. For a doctor 31 years, 167 cm, fair and handsome, having own family hospital at Nagercoil (KKOH). Nanchil nattu Vellalah, non vegetarian, affluent family. Girl should be good looking Hindu girl with decent family background not necessarily rich. Caste no bar. Call 9443131366

AGE 57 Professor 2.5LPM independent Single Healthy would like to have life partner aged 40 –55 an independent Educated Healthy Single widow/Divorcee. caste No Bars. 9444358129

VISWAKARMA TAMIL 30/167 SW Eng Revathi/ME(ph.d)/Fair/RS.6 L PA seeks suitable bride 9444247481/ 8428432112

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR, Divorced, 40 Mirugasiridam PhD TN Govt Job Rs 1.15 p/m 7904550883

WE ARE looking for an alliance for our elder son, aged 29 years, residing in Chennai, height 6 feet, M.B.A (IIM Ahmedabad), Hindu, Brahmin, Iyer, Haritham, Anusham, Medium complexion. The bride should hail from a decent, educated family and working. Same caste. Non Haritham, No doshas, Should be around 26 to 28 years. Contact with Astrological details to rk0437992@gmail.com

IYER KETTAI 39, B.E, L.L.B., 18L/ Pa, own house, own company, all veg ok. CNB. Ct: 9500456893/ 6369157055

BRAHMIN IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc(MCA)MNC, IT 24Lakh PA Seeks unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071359

BRIDE WANTED
Age 41, Vellalar Pillai, BE, ECE, 171/ 68 kg. working as a Software Architect in International Bank, Singapore, Tanjore origin, well settled, wedding function void (annuled). Expected bride with a degree, good family background (caste & status no bar). Contact: +918220007069

MS Ortho DNB-Asst prof 29/176 workg in corporate hospital looking for a bride prefrbly doctors from SC-Adi Dravida. Photo,details H-scope. 93828 89575 / kabilarramni1906@gmail.com

31 / 164cm ME. Assistant Professor Chennai Divorcee seeks suitable Bride Unmarried/ Divorcee- No Issue. Naidu/ Mudaliar/ Pillai/ Chettiar Preferred. Contact: 94430 52596 / 94456 89306

41Yr Divorcee, MBA/MNC No issues, No child RC Naidu. Seek middle class Girl, with no child Cont: 8248731183

VISWAKARMA, 39yrs /5.10', MBA, Manager, 12 Lacs p.a, Doctor Parents, Divorcee (with son 8 yrs) seeks Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9994535673

CNB, NADAR, 1980/165, M.A.B.L., HC, Advocate, Rich only son seeks Dr, Engg, Employed Bride. 94888 88819.

TELUGU

TIRUPUR Naidu Boy 28/180 MBA (IT), Affluent,own business,bride from Any Naidu. 9994581873, 9047081873.

Kamma Naidu, 1974 born, Good looking, never married, MCA, 5'9", Fair, Lead Project Manager in an MNC, Chennai, 45 LPA, looking for suitable Bride, Contact: 9841025124.

NAIDU 35/178, Handsome, MBBS,MS,Dr in TMC Hospital,1850000. PA,Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644,7299576666

HINDU, KULALAR, 29/174, B.E. Software Engr working in Australia seeks educated Girl from decent family. Caste no bar (excuse SC/ST) , CT: 9443721242. thiruveda@yahoo.co.in

URDU

SMU BE S/W Eng & Business fly, 40 / 166 Separated, No Child Affluent Namazi seeks bride with Deen & fly values. 81243 08296 / 78715 71483

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BRAHMIN, 28, 175 cms, Executive, B.Tech. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448344

PILLAI, 26, 168 cms, Businessman, BE. Lives in Srivilliputhur. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

VANIYA CHETTIAR, 25, 168 cms, Businessman, Masters. Lives in Vellore. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 27, 178 cms, Industrial Engineer, MS in Engg. Lives in USA. Father is a Working Professional. Family is a financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

NADAR, 28, 173 cms, Doctor, MD/MS. Lives in Kancheepuram. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

CHETTIAR, 23, 163 cms, Entrepreneur, MBA. Lives in Salem. Father is a Businessman. Family is a financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448344

VANNIA KULA KSHATRIYAR, 30, 160 cms, PhD. Lives in Thanjavur. Father is a Retired person. Mother is an Employed. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448344

VELLALAR, 28, 157 cms, Health Care Professional, Masters in Medicine. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is a financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

LINGAYATH, 26, 173 cms, Post graduate, from a Bangalore based high profile family with very good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from the same community in Bangalore. Contact: 6366448346

CHRISTIAN, 34, 158 cms, Film Director, Diploma in Digital Film Making. Lives in Chennai. Father is a working professional. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 63 66 44 83 47

DIVORCEE

Divorcee Issueless 39/ 175 cm Businessman Sindhi Chennai based Boy Seeks beautiful, tall 33/ 37 Yrs Educated Hindu Bride. Contact: 9840668886

DOCTOR

VANNIYAKULA CHATHRIYAR 28/177, MDS Asst. Proff, Seeks Dental/ BPT Bride. Ct: 9789859565, 9710330967 (W)

M.S. ORTHO, PDF (Spine) Asst. Prof. 32/176 Working in Govt Medical College seeks bride preferably Doctors from SC Adi - Dravidar. Ct: 9443094995

HINDU SC Govt Doctor,47 unmarried 180 cm seeks doctor bride,CNB Ph:9840374285,Wapp no:7200750219

MALAYALAM

MALE, DOB 26-05-1991 (Chothi), well educated (B.Tech), MBA (IIM), MS (USA). Looking for well qualified Bride already in / willing to relocate to the USA. +919446533808, +14699398655 (whatsapp), vishnu26va@gmail.com

NRI

FAMILY SEEKS smart good looking girl for South Indian Christian boy age 30 years PM UAE whatsapp +971554722958

TAMIL MUDALIAR (CNB) 31 / 180cm Tech Analyst at Facebook UK earning 100K GBP seeks Bride living in UK. +91 9840856664

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR 47, BE/MS 175cm, VIP, USA, Monthly Inc–10,00,000 Caste No Bar Divorce, Seeks Bride 9380791999

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs/178cms, MBBS with DIP in Cardiology Private Doctor good looking lives in Nagercoil, Innocent Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride / Divorcee above 28yrs. Contact: 90039 83230.

VANNIYAR, 40/173, Dentist, Pvt Clinic, Seeks Educated Unmarried/ Widow/ Divorcee. Caste No Bar 9840072550

MUTHURAJA 28/180 B.E, MS (USA) Engineer, USA. Seeks bride in USA or willing to travel USA. Ct: 9444581708

TAMIL

GROOM WANTED
VISHWAKARMA (Intercaste Hindu Parents) Smart, Fair, Pretty Girl - Kumbam, Sadhyam, 29/5'.6', BE-ECE, Software Analyst in MNC - 10 L, P.A. Seeks Well Educated, Employed Groom, Any Caste in Hindu.
Ct: 95000 86129
rado5009@yahoo.com

TELUGU

BALIJA , BE ,MBA (IIM),26/160/22 LPA very fair girl working in top MNC company looking for suitable match from working Professional. Groom from well educated family, teetotaller with clean habits. contact : 9444611307

NAIDU : 24/160,V.Fair,B.E, Amazon, Engineer, Chennai, Only Daughter, Elite Family – Seeks Groom – Eng / Business / Doctor – 8925019776

NAIDU 29/162 Thiruvonam B.Tech seeks suitable groom. Horoscope Whatsapp 9500046027/ krishnah5@hotmail.com

NAIDU 41/150cm Uthirattathi, PH.D, Asst.Prof, first Marriage,seeks suitable Groom. sub sect No Bar. 7358166806

TELUGU

NAIDU 26/160, Beautifull, MBBS, MD, Reputed Hospital,800000. PA,Affluant Family, CNB. 7299576644,7299576666

SC-Madiga 38, 5'5 MSc Bio-Tech, Working in HSBC, Salary 12L, 1st Marriage, seeks Qualified Groom Contact: 9966602684, 9246205517

GROOM WANTED
Telugu Kapu from West Godavari, Settled in Chennai. 25/162, Fair and Slim Girl, Architect with Business background and Land Lord in Chennai. Looking for Eligible Rich Kapu Groom.
Contact & Whatapp: 9717980171

URDU

SMU Fair 27/152cm BE/MS (non-IT) works in Japan, open to relocate. Parents seek groom from well settled qualified good family. CT:9789622873.

SUNNI MUSLIM parents seek Allopathic Doctor or Engineer (Oil/Gas/ Petrochem/ MNC) for daughter 30 Yrs Slim, Fair MBBS. M.S., Mob:8056198771.

SITUATIONS VACANT

GENERAL

HR, ADMIN & Trainers > Quants – Technical – Verbal, 0 – 3 years experience. Call SMART: 9840173873

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WANTED SMART & experienced marketing executive for a company manufacturing thermal insulation rolls & packaging materials in Sri City AP. Experienced candidates in the field of insulation materials with good communication skills having MBA or equivalent degree will be preferred. Salary and other benefits as per norms. Mail your CV to contact@airmasterindoplast.com Mb 7338838851.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHARANJEET Rohit Bavdekar W/o Rohit Devdutt Bavdekar, R/o #166/6, Golden Jubilee Complex, Artillery Road, Bengaluru-560007, have changed my name from Charanjeet Rohit Bavdekar to Charanjit Rohit Bavdekar vide affidavit dated 13-01-2023 before Notary Public A R Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

I, MUMTAJ W/o Aslam Khan, R/o #13, 3rd Cross, 5th Main, Near H A L Kalyana Mantapa, L B Shastry Nagar, Bengaluru-560017, have changed my name from Mumtaj to Mumtaj Sheriff vide affidavit dt : 12-01-2023 before Notary A R Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

GENERAL

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XLII CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH43) O.S. No. 3447/2022

Between:
Sri. DIWAKAR J REDDY & OTHERS
Smt. SHAMALASHEKERAN W/o christopher shekeran Residing at No 87, Second Floor, Fourth Main,First Block, First Stage. HBR Layout, Bangalore-560043 **...Plaintiffs Plaintiff-4**
And:
M/s LGCL PROPERTIES PRIVATE LIMITED
..Defendant

Notice/Summons requiring the appearance of a person-Defendant

M/s LGCL PROPERTIES PRIVATE LIMITED
To No 12/1, Rest House Road,Bangalore-560001 Represented by Authorised Signatory & Director **Sri. GIRISH PURAVANKARA**

Whereas DIWAKAR J REDDY & OTHERS has instituted a suit against you for Permanent Injunction under Civil Procedure Code. You are hereby summoned to in this Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed (and able to answer all matonal questions relating to the suit,or who shall be accompanied by some person, able to answer all such questions, on the 09-02-2023 at 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon, to answer the claim, and as the day flexed for your appearance is appointed for the final disposal of the suit, you must be prepared to produce on that day all the witness upon whose evidence and all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, me suit will be heard and determined in your absence

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No. 192, PID No.112-W0196- 7(Old PID No. 72-13-192) situated at Domlur Village, in Corporation Ward No.112 (Old No.72),Bangalore, measuring in total 12,164 Square feet bounded on East Vacant Land, West by Private Property, North by: road and C.ITB. Land South by Premises allotted to the share of Sri Sampangirama Reddy and Sri. Guru Murthy Reddy and HAL Main Road

Given under my hand and the seal of the court this 10th day jan 2023 service by way of paper publication

Advocate for Plaintiffs
Ms Singh & Rani Associates Advocate
No 1, 1 Fico, & Chees Lalbagh RoadBangalore-560027

By order of the court City Civil Judge Bangalore

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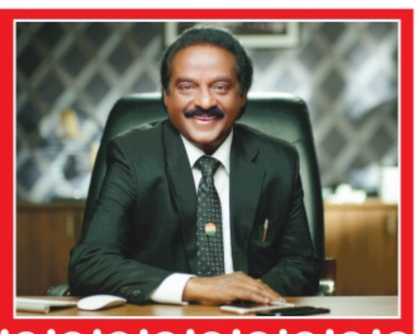

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Buy 42" (106.68 cm) Smart LED TV and Take Home 32" (81.28 cm) Smart LED TV
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Price ₹95000 EMI ₹2525

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At the helm: Brazil's new President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva takes his dog "Resistencia" by the leash as he walks up the ramp upon being welcomed by indigenous Brazilian leader and environmentalist Raoni Metuktire, known as Chief Raoni, and other community representatives at Planalto Palace after his inauguration ceremony at the National Congress in Brasilia on January 1. AFP

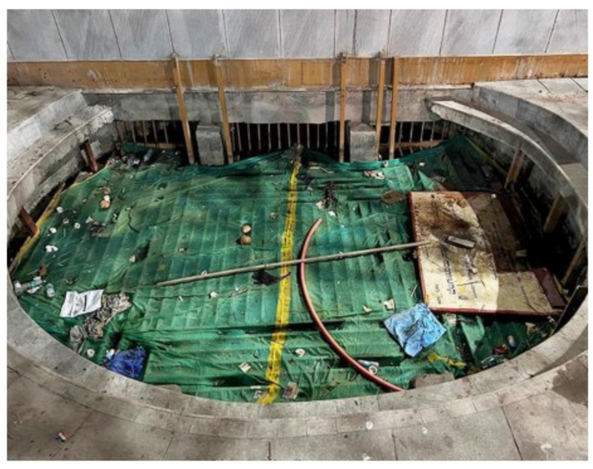
Full regalia: Lula stands with Chief Raoni, after receiving the presidential sash from him and other community representatives, at Planalto Palace. AFP

Street fight: Police cars are pictured amidst tear gas after being pushed off the road by supporters of Brazil's far-right former President Jair Bolsonaro in Brasilia. REUTERS

New beginnings: People react during Brazil's new President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's induction ceremony at Planalto Palace in Brasilia on January 1. AFP

Voice of the people: Members of social movements protest in defence of democracy in Sao Paulo, Brazi. AFP

CM to inaugurate revived heritage well near Russell Market



Renovated well near Russell Market at Shivajinagar. FILE PHOTO

Ann Manoj and Malavika Suresh
BENGALURU

A heritage well, said to predate the British in Bengaluru, in the heart of Shivajinagar near Russell Market, neglected for several decades, has now been revived under the Bengaluru Smart City Project.

The revived well is all set to be inaugurated by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai shortly.

37-feet deep well

"The well is 37-feet deep and was brimming with water. However, it had fallen into disuse and people had thrown garbage into it for decades now," S. Vishwanath, a water conservation expert working on reviving traditional wells.

"So, the water quality had deteriorated. We got the traditional well diggers to clear all the solid waste piled up in the well. We did not find any sewage entering the well. We have disinfected the well and now the water is coming back and is fit for use. The well was traditionally used for drinking purposes," he said. He said a signage inside the well on the date of the well had been damaged, but it is believed that it predates the British in the city.

Bengaluru once was depended on wells for its drinking water, and lakes to recharge these wells. It is important for us to preserve this heritage, make it functional and communicate the need to use ground water carefully and judiciously, Mr. Vishwanath said.

Mohammed Idrees Choudhury, General Secretary of Russell Market Traders Association, said the traders were happy that the well was being revived and credited the local MLA Rizwan Arshad for the initiative to revive the heritage well. After renovation of the well, the area will have a park, a fountain, public toilets, CCTV cameras and street lights.

Two arrested for robbing passengers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Railway Police with the help of Railway Protection Force arrested two persons, and recovered nine bikes and gold valuables worth ₹18.8 lakh which they had stolen from railway passengers.

The accused, Vikram Armugam, 20, a construction labourer-turned-thief and his associate, Mukhtam Sab, 22 from Raichur town used to travel on trains identifying gullible passengers to rob valuables.

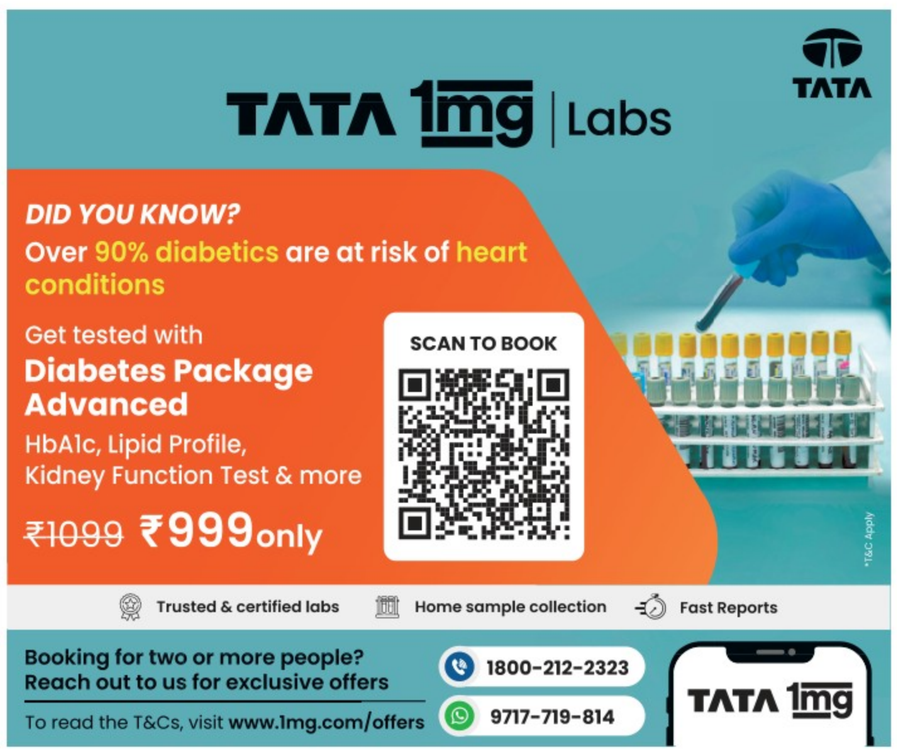
The duo had stolen a handbag belonging to Padmavathy Kulkarni while she was travelling from Kalyan to Bengaluru in Udyan Express, containing 211 grams of gold valuables worth ₹10.8 lakh. Based on the complaint, a team of police tracked down the accused using CCTV footage and with the help of local intelligence, and arrested them.

Postal heritage walk to be organised tomorrow

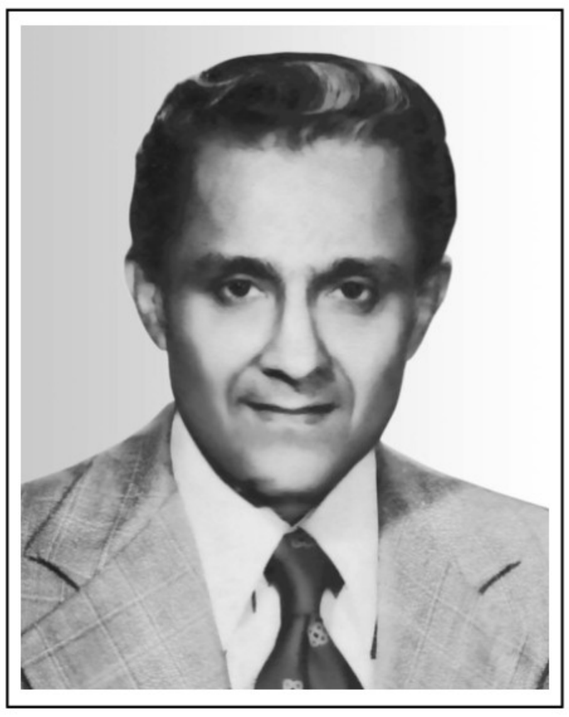
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Posts, in association with Heritage Beku, will organise a Postal Heritage walk / trail on Monday.

According to a press note, the heritage walk will commence at 3 p.m. from the Office of the Mail Motor Service on Millers Road. It will conclude at Sandesha Museum of Communications on Museum Road. The walk will be followed by the inauguration of The Evening Post Office on Museum Road Post Office, which will have extended working hours for the public for booking their registered and Speed Post articles.



Remembered by Family, Friends and Employees.



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Arvind Gandhi, former Chairman and Managing Director of USV Pvt Ltd, was a leader who inspired with integrity and compassion.

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From Page One

Bommai to present women-centric Budget

Mr. Bommai said it would be a pro-people Budget, and programmes would be announced for providing sources of livelihood for women to make them self-reliant in managing their households. He said the monetary benefits would be passed on to women to help them manage expenses of households.

This would be the last Budget of the present State government. It would focus on the welfare of farmers, labourers, women, SCs and STs, and other backward classes, he said.

The Budget size would be bigger as Mr. Bommai said tax collections, including those from the Excise Department, had increased significantly post COVID. Many schemes and projects for different districts would be announced, he said.

The size of the Budget was ₹2,65,719.92 crore in 2022-23. Under Swami Vivekananda Yuvashakti scheme, financial support would be given to five lakh youth for undertaking self-employment. The youth would be linked to banks, he added.

Women would be empowered under SHGs and ₹5 lakh each would be given for each of the two SHGs in each village.

The scheme would be announced in the last week of January or the first week of February, the Chief Minister said.

Already a preliminary round of meetings for the 2023-24 Budget had been held. Sources said the Budget would focus on rural development, agriculture and water resources projects.

Dry, cold weather springs hope for mango lovers after two consecutive 'off' years

Owing to erratic rains and blight disease, quality and quantity of the fruit had dipped in Karnataka over the last two years

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

There seems to be some good news for mango lovers this season. After two 'off' years, this year there might be a good amount of yield, barring any weather variations.

Owing to erratic rains and blight disease, the quality and quantity of the fruit had reduced in the State over the last two years. Last year, it was only around 7 lakh to 8 lakh tonnes, as against an average of 10 lakh to 14 lakh tonnes every year.

If dry weather continues till April, then the yield might be around 12 lakh metric tonnes this year, according to senior officials of Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Limited (KSMDMCL).

If dry weather continues till April, then the yield is expected to be around 12 lakh tonnes this year.
K. MURALI KUMAR

There are two factors which play a key role in flower initiation and fruit setting of mangoes, experts say – soil moisture and night temperature.

"If there are cold conditions, then there would be good flower initiation. This year, so far, night temperature has been dropping and there has been no rain after December. If the same weather pattern continues, then this will hopefully be an 'on' year for mangoes," said a senior official.

Usually, the fruits from Ramanagaram district, hit the markets first, but this year, the rain in the first week of December hampered flower initiation and hence, mangoes from there would only be available by May. By the end of April, mangoes from other parts of the State like Kolar, Chickballapur districts will be ready to eat. Senthoora, Raspuri and Badami (Alphonso) varieties will be the first ones available.

Good production

In Karnataka, mangoes are cultivated on around 1.60 lakh hectares of land and Kolar district accounts for around 50% of the total production in the State. With ease of transportation, varieties from other States, like Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, are also expected to come to the markets this year. While the prices were fluctuating between ₹100 and ₹200 last year, this year, good production could also mean that mangoes will be easier on the consumers' pockets.

Mango Board is also optimistic about conducting the famed Mango Mela in Lalbagh on a grand scale this year, if there is no rise in COVID-19 cases. By the first week of May, mangoes will also be available of Karsiri, the online portal of KSMDMCL where customers can place orders directly from farmers and get them delivered to their doorstep via India Post.

Teachers mull over boycotting transfer counselling

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Schoolteachers in the State are mulling over boycotting counselling for "excess teachers" transfer scheduled to begin on January 24, in protest over delay in promotions.

They said earlier the Department of School Education and Literacy had promised transfer of excess teachers along with promotions of eligible teachers. But it has now scheduled transfers with no clarity on promotions.

The Karnataka State Primary School Teachers Association (KSPSTA) has demanded postponement of transfers till promotions are given. "We are in the end of the academic year and transferring teachers at this stage will hamper academic activities. So, we demand the transfers be postponed till after the academic year," said Chandrashekara Nuggali, General Secretary, KSPSTA. The Department has identified 8,500 primary school teachers and 2,000 high school teachers for transfers this year.

Teachers are due for promotions twice every year, but there have been no promotions for over a year now. "In a teacher's 30 years of service, they usually get only one promotion. By March 2023, 1,200 primary school teachers, eligible for promotion, will retire from service. While promotions in other departments are happening smoothly, it has become irregular in the Department of School Education and Literacy. So we have decided to boycott the excess teachers' transfer scheduled for January 24," Mr. Nuggali explained. The association will meet on January 16 to take a final call on the matter.

'Put it off'

Shambulinganagowda Patil, president, KSPSTA, said that given the government has decided to hold public exams for classes V and VII this year, transferring teachers at this stage of the academic year will hamper academic activity and appealed for the transfers to be put off till the end of academic year.

However, Minister for the Department of School Education and Literacy B.C. Nagesh assured that those who are due for promotions will get their promotions within a time frame and transfers will happen as per schedule. "While teachers will be transferred now, they will not be relieved right away. They will report to their new postings only next academic year," he said.

Despite ban, Chinese manja menace persists

Reddy Kala Pujari
BENGALURU

As Sankranti festivities are here, selling and buying kites for the season has picked up. But an old menace persists. Traditional markets and online platforms are open for customers to purchase nylon threads, or Chinese manja, to fly kites, leading to apprehensions about the danger they pose to birds and other creatures.

Dangerous trend: Animal activists say there has been a spurt in cases of birds being harmed by Chinese manja. FILE PHOTO

In 2016, the Karnataka government had banned nylon threads and said it causes grievous injuries to birds, animals as well as human beings. The ban was imposed on procuring, stocking, sale and use of nylon thread or other synthetic threads coated with glass or other harmful substances used for kite flying or other purposes.

"The kite's thread cuts into the birds' wings, necks and limbs, and they eventually die a horrible death," said Parvez Ahmed Piran, former Joint Director of Animal Husbandry, BBMP.

Arun Prasad, an animal activist, said of late there had been a spurt in cases of birds harmed by Chinese manja.

"Recently, I got a call from Koramangala about a crow being found entangled and hanging by the Chinese manja thread," he added. "It is the responsibility of the local authorities and the Forest Department to enforce the order against the ban on the Chinese manja. However, they fail to confiscate the thread and implement the order strictly," said Mr. Prasad.

Students' survey to be conducted to assess the extent of COVID-19 impact on learning outcomes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a gap of two years, the State government is all set to conduct Students' Assessment Survey (SAS) for classes II, V, VIII, IX and X on January 17 and 18 in select government primary and high schools across the State. The findings of this survey is eagerly awaited as this will for the first time assess 'learning backwardness' among students in the State due to the pandemic.

Lockdowns due to the COVID-19 led to closure of schools, forcing them to shift classes online, a mode that teachers and students found it hard to adapt. Learning outcomes of most students were hit. The digital divide further exasperated 'learning backwardness' among poor students, those residing in remote areas. As a remedial measure, the State government introduced 'Kalika Chetarike' as a learning recovery programme in all government and aided schools. The programme is still on in all government schools. The SAS, to be conducted on a select sample from government schools, will reveal the extent of learning backwardness due to the pandemic and the effectiveness of Kalika Chetarike.

The department has selected 3,308 government schools for this survey. The survey will be conducted for classes III and V Kannada medium classes, and in classes VIII, IX and X Kannada and English medium students. Among the 2,11,520 selected students by the department for this survey, a total 33,573 students from class III, 35,645 students from class V, 39,932 students from class XIII, 52,919 students from class IX and 49,451 students are from class X. As a part of the survey, the department will conduct a test for 30 marks. The department plans to use OMR sheets for this test.

The test will be conducted for Language (Kannada) and Mathematics for class III students; for Kannada, English, Mathematics and Environmental Studies for class V students; Kannada, English, Hindi, Mathematics, Science and Social Science for class VIII, IX and X students.

'Power tariff hike will hit service, manufacturing sectors'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the backdrop of the electricity supply companies (Escoms) of the State submitting their tariff revision proposals to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) has claimed that the proposed tariffs will have a serious impact on manufacturing and service sectors.

In a press meet on Saturday, the FKCCI noted that Escoms have filed for an increase in demand drafts/ fixed charges, withdrawal of special incentive schemes, levying of grid support charges for open access consumers and withdrawal of solar water concession provided to domestic users.

"We would like to inform that there will be a severe impact on 15,147 (HT) consumers and around 5,35,220 small-scale industrial units in our State," said B.V. Gopal Reddy, president, FKCCI.

Woman and son end lives over trivial row

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a tragic turn of events , a 50-year-old woman and her 25-year-old son ended their lives over a trivial row over dinner at their home in Ijoor police station limits on Friday.

The deceased have been identified as Vijayalakshmi and her son, Harsha, living in Kumaraswamy Layout in Ramanagaram with two others. The police said Harsha and his father worked in a bakery they owned while the younger son worked in a private firm. On Friday, Vijayalakshmi and Harsha had a heated argument over dinner following which Harsha shouted at her and went out in a huff.

Depressed Vijayalakshmi waited for her younger son to return home, locked the door from outside and ended her life. Her younger son raised alarm and managed to get out of the house. With the help of neighbours, he took Vijayalakshmi to hospital where the doctor declared her as brought dead. Harsha, who came to know about this, returned home, and ended his life. The Ijoor police have registered two cases of unnatural death and are investigating the case.

(Those who are in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

CINEMA ❖ ARTS ❖ EVENTS

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

SRI RAMA Lalitha Kala Mandira, 9th Main Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore – 560 070, presents Annual Music Festival – 2023 from 5th February, 2023 to 12th February 2023, at 5.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m., at Bangalore Gayana Samaja Auditorium, K.R.Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004, All are Welcome, Hon. Secretary G.V. Krishna Prasad, Hon. Secretary, Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira, M: 7760907939.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients intend to purchase vacantproperty bearing municipal katha No. 1, Old No. 26, PID No. 59-31-1, Situated at 2nd Main, Tata Silk Farm, K.R.Road, Basavangudi, Bangalore, in BBMP limits, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 50 Feet totally measuring 2000 Square feet more fully described in the schedule herein below from **1. MR.R.KARTHIK** S/o Late SRI.N.RAVI, Aged about 31 years, **2. MR.R.KIRAN** S/o Late SRI.N.RAVI, Aged about 25 years, Both Residing at No. 1/1, 2nd Main Road,Tata Silk Farm, K.R.Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560004, who claims to be the absolute owners of the Schedule Property and apart from them, no other person/s has/ have any right, title, interest and/or claim/s in or upon the Schedule Property. If any person/ s has/have any claims, right, title and/or interest in or upon the same, the same may be intimated to me **within 10 days** from the date of this publication along with documents in support thereof. If no tenable objections are received within the said period, my client will proceed to complete the transaction, deeming that there are no claims or objections whatsoever.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of vacant property bearing municipal katha No. 1, Old No. 26, PID No. 59-31-1, Situated at 2nd Main, Tata Silk Farm, K.R.Road, Basavangudi, Bangalore, in BBMP limits, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 50 Feet totally measuring 2000 Square feet, bounded on:

East by : Property bearing No. 19
West by : Remaining portion of property bearing No. 26
North by : IInd main Road,
South by : Property bearing No. 25

S.K. MITHUN Advocate,
No.19/1, 3rd Cross, Shankarpura,
BANGALORE- 560 004

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Under Taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL.NRBC.Divn.No.4,
Chikkahonnakuni,Tq: Devadurga. Dist:Raichur-584 111 KARNATAKA.
No. KBJNL/NRBC/D-4/PB//TND/2022-23/ 824 DATED:12.01.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bengaluru/Almatti, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, NRBC, Division No.4, Chikkahonnakuni Tq: Devadurga, Dist: Raichur invites percentage tender from firms/companies/ consultantsfor the following works in two cover system from the eligible Register of Companies of competent authority as per rule 28C of KTPP act. (The blank tenders can be obtained through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and submitted through electronic tender box).

1) Name of Work: Consultancy Services for Survey, investigation, detailed Engineering and preparation of Design, Drawing, Estimat and DTP for the work of improving the existing Gugal Barrage to ease out maximum flood discharge in the Krishna River. (Indent no 21970) 2) Amount Put to Tender : Rs.25.14 Lakhs. 3) E.M.D Amount : Rs.0.60 Lakhs. 4) The details of events for the above works is mentioned as below:-

1.The consultants can request for e-tendering document from 13/01/2023 to 30/01/2023 in the web site http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/e-portal/index.seam link e-tender document on payment of transaction fee as per e-portal (non refundable) While applying the consultants can pay the transaction fee in the e-procurement portal using payment modes- credit cards/direct debit/National electronic fund transfer (NEFT)/ over the counter (OTC) on or before13/01/2023 to 30/01/2023during before 5.00 PM 2) The consultants can have access to e-tender documents from 13/01/2023 to 30/01/2023 upto 5.00 PM 3) Cover-I Technical Bid will be opened in the Office of Executive Engineer, KBJNL, NRBC Division No.4, Chikkahonnekunnion 01/02/2023 at 11.00 AM 4) Cover-II Financial Bid will be opened electronically in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL,NRBC Division No.4, Chikkahonnakuni, Tq: Devadurga, Dist: Raichur on 06/02/2023 @ 11.00 AM.

For any information or clarification regarding conditions for the tenders please Contact www.eproc.karnataka.gov.inor office of the under signed during office hours on working days.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, NRBC, Division No.4,
CHIKKAHONNAKUNI-584111

DIP/Raichur/533/ K.S.M.C&A/2022-23

ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ರೂಪರೇಖಾ ಮತ್ತು ತನಿಖಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬನ್ನೂರು–571101.
ಫೋ: 08227–275653, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08227–275653
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eedidbannur@gmail.com

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 09/2022–23: ದಿ:12.01.2023 (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)

ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರುಗಳಿಂದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು 1 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 50.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/878/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/Tr(M)/BRAZ/EE/AEE-2/F-T6/22-23/5746 Dt: 13.01.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites tender for the following works.

Bid Enq. No. KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BRAZ/AEE-2/Srinivasapura-Yeldur/EPR-733 Dtd: 12.01.2023 (Call-2) for Providing Intermediate tower DB+3 for increasing vertical clearance in B/w T.No 2-3 in Srinivaspura-Yeldur S/c line Near Annenahalli Village Limits in TLM Section Kolar, TLM Sub-Dvn, Kolar, TL&SSD, Kolar coming under the jurisdiction of TR(M)., BRAZ Circle, KPTCL, Bengaluru on **Total Turnkey, Two Part & Percentage Basis**.

For more information regarding the subject tender can be had by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'e-procurement-KPTCL'** or directly logging on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16.01.2023.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Tr.(M), BRAZ, KPTCL, UAS Campus,
Hebbal, Bengaluru-560024.

Man found murdered

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

A person, native of Hassan district, was found murdered in a lodge at Bhadravati in Shivamogga district on Friday. The deceased has been identified as Parvez, 38, a truck driver and resident of Javagal in Arsikere taluk.

Parvez had taken a room in the lodge along with Ayesha, native of Channarayapatna. The lady had returned to Hassan.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JAN. 15		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:12
RISE	00:09	SET 12:14
MONDAY, JAN. 16		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:13
RISE	00:59	SET 12:55
TUESDAY, JAN. 17		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:13
RISE	01:54	SET 13:41

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	19
Mysuru	29	14
Bengaluru	30	15

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable and humid. Night will be cool with haze.

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THE HINDU
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Weekend woes: Time saved on expressway lost in traffic congestion at Kumbalgod

The speed at which the motorists drive on the expressway drops by more than half when they come down to the grade level. Besides, the expressway traffic converges with the Mysuru Road traffic at a narrow point, leading to congestion. A ray of hope, however, is the upcoming service road which is expected help motorists

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

The long queue of vehicles on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway at Basavanagara junction near Kengeri on weekends. K. MURALI KUMAR

People travelling from Mysuru to Bengaluru reach the city now faster than before. But the time they save on the expressway is lost as they move forward from Kumbalgod, where the expressway comes down to the grade level. Local residents and business owners say between 4 and 9 p.m. on weekends, there is massive traffic congestion.

The Hindu visited Kumbalgod over the weekend for a reality check. Although traffic was moving at a good pace until 4.30 p.m., by 5 p.m., traffic began building up to over a kilometre.

By 7 p.m., it stretched to nearly 2 km along the expressway itself.

Somashekhar, a regular commuter, said, "It is a task to move forward from this stretch during weekends and holidays. Especially if there are accidents, we get stuck for one or two hours." Locals say the main problem near the exit is reduced speed. The speed at which the motorists drive on the expressway drops by more than half when they come down to the grade level.

Pedestrians also pointed out that removal of speed breakers on Mysuru Road during the construction of the expressway had resulted in accidents

Besides, the expressway traffic converges with the Mysuru Road traffic at a narrow point, leading to congestion. Commuters said had the Challaghatta metro station been built a few hundred metres away, it could have helped the situation. A ray of hope, however, is the upcoming service road which is expected help motorists, especially those who take the NICE Road on the left.

Pedestrians' woes

Bunnaz Banu, who works in a factory nearby and has to cross the busy road before the expressway every day, said there were instances when she had waited around 20 minutes to cross the road. There is no designated pedestrian crossing zones, and the police have to stop the traffic and let people cross the road every few minutes.

A police officer at the Kumbalgod station said a skywalk was needed.

"We have to stop traffic every 10 minutes to people cross, which adds to the traffic snarls. It is difficult to handle both traffic and pedestrians on weekends between 4 and 8 p.m. as all of them are in a hurry and do not follow rules."

Pedestrians also pointed out that removal of speed breakers on Mysuru Road during the construction of the expressway had resulted in accidents. When *The Hindu* was at the spot, a speeding car caused an autorickshaw to topple, injuring four people who were inside.

A senior official in Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) said traffic problems might only increase on Mysuru Road when the expressway is fully functional.

The official also hinted at making Mysuru Road (from where the jurisdiction of BTP starts), signal free to ease traffic flow.

Concerns over workers' board fund being used for free bus pass

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

While concerns have been expressed over spending Karnataka Construction Workers' Welfare Board funds for the free bus pass scheme announced in the State Budget, the Board is now under pressure to further increase the number of passes. Workers' unions have opposed this on the ground that this additional financial burden would severely drain out the Board's funds.

The annual outgo for the bus pass scheme for construction workers towards BMTC, KSRTC, NWKSRTC and KKSRTC is about ₹168 crore. This sum is expected to go up exponentially given the pressure to increase the number of passes. The Board, which has a corpus of more than ₹7,000 crore, has been asked by the State government to fund the free bus pass scheme. The KSRTC, KKSRTC and NWKSRTC are charging a monthly fee of ₹1,400 per pass and BMTC ₹1,050 per pass.

As against a total registration of over 30 lakh workers in rural areas, one lakh passes have been issued, which is the ceiling for the scheme. Of about 5 lakh registered workers in BMTC limits, around 26,000 passes have been issued. As election approach, pressure is building to issue more passes.

Not a success in villages

The Board has found that the bus passes in rural areas have not worked well even though pressure is building to issue more. A proposal to have a common mobility card to increase utility and monitor the usage could not take off due to restricted infrastructure.

"Unlike the BMTC limits where services are better, in rural areas, public transport is very poor. Many villages are still not connected, and even if they are, the bus service is not timely. Further, in rural areas, point-to-point travel is not possible. Workers have to depend on private transport to reach their work site. What is the use of the free bus pass," asks H.G. Umesh Avaragere, president of Karnataka Construction Workers and Quarry Workers' Association. "If the Board money is utilised to fund all passes, the money will dry up, leaving nothing for welfare schemes for which it is really meant. This will help only road transport corporations."

Karnataka State Building and Other Construction Federation General Secretary K. Mahantesh said, "We are not against the bus pass scheme. However, the government should bear the cost, and not the Board. The Board fund is meant for education, health, shelter and pension." The State government implementing its scheme through funds from the Board is not right, he argued.

ULB Code : 803162

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
ಒಂದು ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆಯೆಡೆಗೆ
Government of Karnataka
BBMP
BSWML
Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited

Swachh Survekshan
Our Move is Towards Cleanliness
Increased Focus, Enhanced Vision

Cleanliness is our Priority

Cleanliness is not just for our home. Our street, our neighbourhood also needs it. The country also needs it. Because it is not enough to keep only our house and courtyard clean, the entire country has to be kept clean. Keeping this in mind, the Swachh Bharat Campaign sponsored by the Government of India has been launched in every village and city of our country. The objective of this campaign is to build toilets and change the infrastructure of the country.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is trying its best to make our favourite garden city one of the cleanest cities in the country under the Swachh Survekshan Abhiyan. It seeks the participation of the public in this regard.

Aims of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan :

- To make people aware to build and use toilets.
- Segregation of waste materials at home.
- Keeping the Roads Clean.
- Creating awerness on cleanliness among street vendors.
- Properly Collection and disposal of sanitary napkins.
- Banning plastic bags.
- Banning spitting and urinating in public places
- Eradication of open defecation.
- Bringing mental change towards sanitation among the public.
- Complete eradication of slums.
- Complete elimination of manual scavenging.
- To create awareness about sanitation among the public.
- The Swachh Survekshan Abhiyan is a good beginning to make India clean and green. If all the citizens come together and participate in this campaign, we can restore the past glory of our garden city and achieve much more than that.

Swachh Survekshan-2023 - Our City Our Pride
VOTE FOR YOUR CITY
Clean Bengaluru, Healthy Bengaluru is Responsibility of all.

To safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the Fundamental Duty of every Indian.

Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene | Get yourself voluntarily vaccinated

Administrator
BBMP

Chief Commissioner
BBMP

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INBRIEF

MLA Nagesh, ex-MLA Datta join Congress

Independent MLA for Mulbagal and former Minister H. Nagesh and the former JD(S) MLA Y.S.V. Datta joined the Congress at the party office here on Saturday. Mr. Nagesh has resigned as chairman of the Ambedkar Development Corporation. "I am a ticket aspirant for Mahadevapura constituency in Bengaluru,"he said. Both leaders joined the Congress in the presence of KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and the former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The former Mysuru Urban Development Authority chairman Mohan Kumar of the BJP too joined the Congress.

Flower show, wine fest at Raja Seat from February 3 to 6

Tourist footfall is expected to see a rise as Raja Seat in Madikeri, one of the most visited sites in Kodagu, will host a flower show and wine festival from February 3 to 6.

Nearly 20 species of flowers and about 12,000 plants will be part of the show with floral decorations. One of the highlights of the show is the bonsai plants exhibition and attractions created in varieties of flowers.

The wine festival will be held as homemade wine is popular in the district, and there will be a special exhibition of Coorg spices. Those wishing to participate in the wine festival must have their own production unit and alcohol content should be less than what has been prescribed by the Excise Department, a release said.

CM: Will do justice for Panchamasalis after getting final report of BC panel

The commission has submitted its interim report; Basavaraj Bommai accuses Opposition Congress of trying to take mileage out of caste politics

The Hindu Bureau
HARIHAR/BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who has come under pressure from Panchamasalis to increase reservation for it, on Saturday promised to ensure justice for the community as soon as the government receives the final report of the Permanent Backward Classes Commission.

"We are not bothered about criticism and we will give your rightful share as part of our social responsibility. We will see to it that you get your right share permanently. An effective argument will be made in court. As soon as we receive the final report, we will do justice to you as per your expecta'tions. We will not do anything that will affect your confidence," the Chief Minister told the Panchamasali community at a farmers' convention and 'Hara Jatra-2023' organised by Panchamasali Jagadguru Peetha at Harihar.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai addressing a gathering during Hara Jatra Mahotsava organised by Panchamasali Sri Jagadguru Peetha at Harihar on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Earlier, speaking to media persons in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister accused the Opposition Congress of trying to take mileage out of caste politics. In an obvious reference to a few BJP leaders themselves attacking the government over the reservation issue, he said the party would take suitable action against those who talk against the government and the party. "There is a big responsibility on them as they have to see all the communities equally and do justice to all," he said.

Seeking to set the records straight with respect to the claims of setting the deadline for increasing reservation, he said, "I have not given any deadline and it is they who have set it. We have taken a decision [on reclassification] within one week after the Backward Classes Commission submitted its interim report. In 2016, the Congress was in power and Siddaramaiah was the Chief Minister. The Kantharaj Commission had then rejected their applications. Those who did not ask questions at that time are now asking us. Do they have any moral right?" Mr. Bommai said.

"The Panchamasali seer must question such leaders on what they have done when in power. It is not correct to vitiate the atmosphere," the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Bommai said the Sadashiva Commission report had not been implemented in the last 10 years and the Kantharaj Commission report had not seen the light of day. But the interim report of the Backward Classes Commission was tabled before the Cabinet within a week and clearance was given to it. Those who have been demanding reservation must observe that it was the BJP government that has decided to include them in the 2A category. "This shows our commitment," Mr. Bommai said.

Charge against Cong.

Mr. Bommai ridiculed the Congress' promise of giving 200 units of free power to every household if the party comes to power. They had already pushed the Escoms into a debt trap when they were in power and the BJP government had to give ₹8,000 crore to revive the power sector, he said.

"Out of the frustration of losing the coming elections, the Congress has been making such announcements that are not implementable. Congress leaders are aware of it, but still they are trying to mislead the people," the Chief Minister said. A sum of ₹9,000 crore is needed to give free power and if they release that much money, they have to cut funds to other programmes. "We are running a responsible government and talk sensibly as we are also aware of people's problems," Mr. Bommai said.

HC: It is mandatory to notify tenants and hear their objections before acquiring land under 2013 Act

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It is mandatory for the State government to notify and hear objections of all the "persons interested" in the land, including the tenant of the land, before issuing final notification for acquisition under the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, said the High Court of Karnataka.

Justice N.S. Sanjay Gowda passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Ugar Sugar Works Ltd. of Sangli in Maharashtra.

Every person who claims an interest in compensation to be made on account of acquisition of land is a 'person interested' as per this law, the High Court of Karnataka has said.

The petitioner had questioned the notifications issued in 2017 for acquiring 86 acres and 35 guntas of land situated at Kusanal and Ugar Khurd villages of Belagavi district without issuing notice to the company, which is the tenant of the land since 1951 and its application for tenancy rights under the Karnataka Land Reforms Act has been pending adjudication before the land tribunal.

Rehabilitation centre

The land was notified for establishing a rehabilitation centre for Hipparagi dam project by the State government. The acquisition notice was served only to the owner of the land, Ganapati Maharaj Sangli, who did not object to the acquisition, and hence the authorities passed the award in 2018.

On analysing the 2013 Act, the court pointed out that every person who claims an interest in compensation to be made on account of acquisition of land is a "person interested" as per this law. And persons who have tenancy rights under the relevant State laws are included in the definition of "person interested" under Section 3(x) of the 2013 Act, the court noted.

The court also found that Section 15 of the 2013 Act states that any person interested in any land, which has been notified for acquisition, may object to the area and suitability of the land proposed to be acquired.

When Section 11 of 2013 Act seeks to injunct all the persons who are interested in land from creating any transaction, it logically follows that all the interested persons would also have to be notified, the court said.

Meanwhile, the court pointed out that "the Rules framed by the Central government would satisfy the requirement of Section 11 of 2013 Act and the Rules framed by the State are silent about notifying the persons interested".

In order to achieve the objects of the 2013 Act, it would be necessary and mandatory for the State government to notify all persons interested in the land proposed for acquisition, the court made it clear while quashing the acquisition notification and directing the government to consider the objections to be filed by the company for acquisition.

It would be illogical and unnatural to exclude a tenant of a land, who would also be dependent on the land, to object to the acquisition when the 2013 Act fundamentally changes the very process of compulsory acquisition and seeks to involve everyone affected, including the local self government to participate and give their inputs regarding the proposed acquisition, even before a decision is taken to initiate acquisition, the court observed.

Congress launches campaign to highlight price rise

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee has launched a campaign to tap the alleged public anger on price rise before AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's visit to Bengaluru on Monday.

The campaign highlights the issues of massive price rise in the State, and projects Ms. Vadra as a solution provider to peoples' problems, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar said.

"Women of Karnataka bear the brunt of price rise the most. We must understand the pain of a mother who can't afford daily essentials for her child," he said in a tweet adding, "Get ready to welcome Mrs. Priyanka Gandhi who is coming to Karnataka to help poor and middle-class families who are confused whether to pay their children's school fees or buy an LPG cylinder."

Ms. Vadra will address this during her rally on Monday. The party intends to capitalise on people's "exasperation" prevailing against the current dispensation.

"The Karnataka Congress is hopeful that Ms. Vadra's visit will help consolidate its vote base and boost its chances of winning the Assembly elections," Mr. Shivakumar said.

'Santro' Ravi, two others remanded in judicial custody

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

K.S. Manjunath, 51, an alleged human trafficker known by the name 'Santro' Ravi, who was arrested on the outskirts of Ahmedabad in Gujarat on Friday, was brought to Mysuru on Saturday and subjected to a preliminary inquiry by the city police before he was remanded in judicial custody in the evening.

He and two others arrested along with him in Ahmedabad – Ramji and Sruteesh Kumar – were produced before the judge of a city court, who remanded them in judicial custody for 14 days.

'Santro' Ravi had been on the run ever since his wife had lodged a complaint against him for alleged rape, atrocity, and dowry in Vijayanagar police station in the city on January 2. He is also accused of playing a role in police transfers.

Earlier in the day, Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order) Alok Kumar told reporters here that the police had subjected the accused to a medical test after they were brought to Mysuru on Saturday morning before their interrogation at the police station. Though the police were planning to seek their custody for further interrogation, the accused were remanded in judicial custody. The interrogation earlier in the day by the inquiry officer – Assistant Commissioner of Police, Narasimharaja division, Shivashankar – in the presence of Mysuru Police Commissioner Ramesh B. was mostly around his whereabouts after the FIR was lodged by his wife. He was questioned about the places he had visited during the 11 days. Details had also been sought from him about the persons who had helped him when he was on the run.

K.S. Manjunath alias 'Santro' Ravi, an alleged human trafficker, was brought to Mysuru on Saturday a day after his arrest on the outskirts of Ahmedabad in Gujarat. M.A. SRIRAM

The inquiry only confirmed the information the police had already obtained about the route taken by the accused to reach Ahmedabad, Mr. Kumar said but added that the police would not reveal the details of the inquiry.

When asked if the other cases against Ravi would also be taken up for interrogation, Mr. Kumar said the priority at present was the case registered against him at the Vijayanagar police station and the other cases would come up only later.

BJP cannot win polls even if Modi, Shah visit Karnataka a hundred times, says HDK

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

JD(S) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Saturday said that the BJP would not be able to win the Assembly elections in Karnataka even if Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party's key strategist Amit Shah visit the State a hundred times.

Participating in a meet-the-press programme organised by the Press Club of Bangalore, Mr. Kumaraswamy alleged that people of the State were upset over the conduct of the BJP leaders and their administration. He said, "BJP leaders have got nothing to project about the achievements made by the State government. On the other hand, Congress leaders are talking about Bharat Jodo Yatra. These things will not work in these elections." He added that Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidates would affect the vote share of the BJP.

He exuded confidence that the JD(S) would get the mandate of voters in the elections. He said the Pancharatna Ratha Yatre, a political campaign of the JD(S), was being well received by the people across the State. The party promises to provide welfare measures such as better healthcare and education system at the gram panchayat level, support farmers to come out of distress and employment generation for the youth.

H.D. Kumaraswamy during an interaction with the media in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Decisive mandate

"The yatre has covered 45 constituencies and the rest of the constituencies will be covered by March," said Mr. Kumaraswmay. He added that to implement the promises made during the campaign, his party needs a decisive mandate from the people. The JD(S) would give the ticket to new faces to contest the elections, giving scope for next generation leadership in the party, he said.

Taking a dig at Congress' recent poll promise of providing 200 units of free electricity to households, the former Chief Minister said that such a move was a burden on the State's exchequer. "The Congress announcement of providing free electricity will result in a revenue loss of ₹5,600 crore. On the other hand, Mr. Modi is advocating for the abolition of freebies. Our party is promising something realistic in the interest of the general public," he said.

Reacting to a question on BJP's attempt to woo voters in the Old Mysore region, he said, "Their attempt will not yield any success. In Mandya, the JD (S) is going to win all the seven Assembly constituencies like it happened in the previous elections."

Targeting the BJP, Mr. Kumaraswamy said that leaders of the party and the State government were denting the image of Karnataka, thereby impacting the flow of foreign direct investment.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites e-Tenders for the prescribed form from Super Grade Licensed Electrical Contractor for the following works.

No:SEE/EE/Tr(W&M)C/DVG/EE/AEE-2/F-114/22-23/CYS-125 Date: 13.01.2023

1.Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)C/DVG/EE/AEE-2/2022-23/78 Dt.11.01.2023 Tender for providing New 01 additional 11kV PCVCB Switchgear for 66/11kV Sub-Station, Hireguntanur in 220kV RS & SS Division, Chitradurga.

No:SEE/EE/Tr(W&M)C/DVG/AEE-1/F-114/22-23/CYS -127 Date: 13.01.2023

2. Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/2022-23/75 Dt.07.01.2023 Tender for providing 2 no's of 11kV PCVCB breaker for load bifurcation of over loaded feeders at 66/11kV MUSS Savalanga in 220 kV Benkikere Division KPTCL on PTK basis.

3. Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/2022-23/79 Dt.11.01.2023 Tender for provision of additional 1 number of 11kV PCVCB for the load bifurcation of F8-MG Halli IP feeder at 66/11kV MUSS Chilur in 220kV R/S Benkikere Division, KPTCL, Channagiri.

4. Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/2022-23/67 Dt.30.12.2022 Tender for providing 2 no's of 11kV PCVCB breaker for bifurcation of over loaded feeders at 66/11kV MUSS Mayakonda in TL & SS Division KPTCL, Davanagere on PTK basis.

5. Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/2022-23/62 Dt.26.12.2022 Tender for providing Four No of additional 11kV MCVCB (1 IC + 4 feeder) for bifurcation of 11kV feeders in 66/11kV MUSS Anagodu in TL & SS Division Davanagere on PTK basis.

No:SEE/EE/Tr(W&M)C/DVG/AEE-2/F-114/22-23/CYS-126 Date: 13.01.2023

KPTCL invites e-Tender for the prescribed form from Reputed Man Power Services for carrying out shift operations & Minor maintenance for the following works.

6.Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)C/DVG/EE(O)/AEE-2/2022-23/43 Call-2/Dt.12.01.2023 Tender for providing Manpower Services for Carrying out Shift Operations and Minor Maintenance Works at 66/11kV Station JN Kote & Konasagara.

Tenders will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16.01.2023.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Near Stadium, Hadadi Road, Davanagere.

Neelakurinji sanctuary stays on paper

Though announced in 2006, the sanctuary in Idukki is not yet demarcated; residents of areas that come under the proposed sanctuary say they cannot even procure possession certificates of their land; a GO empowering an official to initiate the demarcation is still pending

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI

Though the Union government has included Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) on the list of protected plants from Kerala, the proposal for a Neelakurinji sanctuary in Idukki still remains a distant dream.

On October 6, 2006, the then Forest Minister Benoy Viswom had announced a 32-sq.km Neelakurinji sanctuary in the Kottakamboor-Vattavada area in Devikulam taluk, Munnar. The main aim of the proposal is to protect Neelakurinji plants. But after 16 years, the proposed sanctuary is still on paper.

Certain portions (58 and 62 blocks) in Vattavada panchayat have been included in the sanctuary. The residents are unable to even procure possession certificates for their lands. Vattavada panchayat vice-president K. Velayudhan said the delay in fixing the sanctuary's boundaries had impacted the lives of the local residents.

"On Friday, we met the Devikulam Subcollector, who is also the settlement officer of the proposed sanctuary. The official said without a government order, he cannot begin the settlement process, which is the demarcation of the sanctuary area and human habitations. Without fixing the boundaries, we can't finalise the buffer zone boundaries in the panchayat. The settlement officer must complete the process immediately," said Mr. Velayudan.

Long-pending issue: Though Neelakurinji is on the list of protected plants, the proposal for a Neelakurinji sanctuary in Idukki remains a distant dream. JOMON PAMPAVALLEY

K. Jayaprakash, a resident of Vattavada, said the farmers had been living in the village for hundreds of years.

"As per the government order, the proposed sanctuary is in 3,200 hectares of land. But, the actual area is only around some 2,900 hectares," said Mr. Jayaprakash.

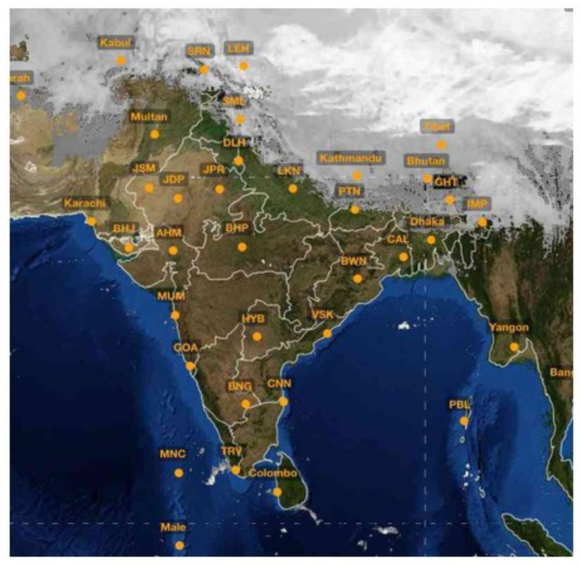
Devikulam Sub-collector Rahul Krishna Sharma said a government order was still pending and hence the delay in the settlement process. "To start the process, the government should issue an order for empowering an official to conduct the settlement process. I hope the order will be issued soon," said Mr. Krishna Sharma.

A Forest Department official said the sanctuary was a continuum of the Neelakurinji plants from the Eravikulam National Park. "Neelakurinji plants are largely found in the proposed sanctuary area, and the area must be protected," said the official.

In December 2017, a three-member ministerial committee of the then Ministers K. Raju, E. Chandrasekharan, and M.M. Mani visited the Kadavari area of the proposed sanctuary and listened to the complaints and suggestions from local people. After five years, the process is still pending.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Dense to very dense fog likely in some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi and in isolated pockets over Uttar Pradesh. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and hail likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh and east Assam

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	25.5	12.0	Kozhikode	—	33.0	22.0
Ahmedabad	—	25.3	10.3	Kurnool	—	33.9	17.7
Aizawl	—	—	7.2	Lucknow	—	22.4	9.6
Allahabad	—	27.0	11.2	Madurai	—	31.8	18.1
Bengaluru	—	29.8	14.5	Mangaluru	—	31.2	21.0
Bhopal	—	—	8.4	Mumbai	—	27.5	15.2
Bhubaneswar	—	31.7	17.0	Mysuru	—	—	9.4
Chandigarh	—	13.0	11.4	New Delhi	—	17.5	11.0
Chennai	—	29.6	20.1	Patna	—	20.0	10.4
Coimbatore	—	30.6	17.4	Port Blair	—	30.2	22.9
Dehradun	—	21.8	11.2	Puducherry	—	31.6	17.7
Gangtok	—	11.0	6.6	Pune	—	31.2	12.5
Goa	—	30.0	18.6	Raipur	—	31.6	14.5
Guwahati	—	26.1	12.0	Ranchi	—	26.6	12.7
Hubballi	—	32.0	15.0	Shillong	—	15.1	5.6
Hyderabad	—	31.8	17.6	Shimla	—	10.6	0.6
Imphal	—	22.9	6.0	Srinagar	—	6.9	-0.1
Jaipur	—	19.5	8.5	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.7	20.8
Kochi	—	29.4	21.8	Tiruchi	—	29.5	19.0
Kohima	—	19.8	5.0	Vijayawada	—	30.4	17.8
Kolkata	—	27.5	19.7	Visakhapatnam	—	28.2	23.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	—	35	131	127	
Bengaluru	2	30	28	166	135	
Chennai	23	42	43	199	176	
Delhi	11	24	41	414	293	
Hyderabad	17	9	73	127	118	
Kolkata	38	—	42	125	117	
Lucknow	15	42	96	397	337	
Mumbai	80	144	36	405	251	
Pune	—	—	—	—	—	
Visakhapatnam	—	48	43	210	154	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Katihar, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 435 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 36

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Elephant swims across dam near Munnar, triggers panic

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

A wild elephant named Chakkakompan triggered panic among tourists at Anayirangal, a hydel tourism site near Munnar in Kerala.

According to Forest Department officials, the tusker swam across the Anayirangal reservoir from Chinnakkanal to reach the hydel tourism location around 8.30 a.m. on Saturday and destroyed a coracle bench and other equipment.

The tusker seen at Anayirankal hydel tourism location on Saturday.

Upon noticing the tusker, tourists fled the spot. A Forest Department official said solar fencing in the area helped prevent the elephant from getting close to the tourists.

Devikulam range officer P.V. Vegi said forest watchers on the spot drove the tusker back to a safe area.

"The tusker had accidentally arrived in the hydel tourism area," said Mr. Vegi.

Telangana runs out of Covishield vaccine stock

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana has run out of Covishield vaccine. The COVID status bulletin released by the government since January 10 has reported the Covishield vaccine stock availability to be zero, both at cold chain points (CCP) and district vaccine stores (DVS) apart from the State-level stores.

A large number of citizens are having to return back from hospitals after being told there is no stock of Covishield.

Minister for Health T. Harish Rao on December 23 in a video conference with Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had said the State had 8 lakh doses of Covaxin, 80,000 doses of Covishield and no doses of Corbevax. According to the COVID bulletin released by the office of Director of Public Health and Family Welfare, as of January 1, Covishield stock in the State was 69,850 doses, on January 9 the available stock was 36,740 doses and on January 10 the vaccine went out of stock.

Meanwhile, on the CoWin website, private hospitals in Hyderabad and Rangareddy districts are still accepting slot bookings for Covishield till January 18. The situation is the same in Medchal district, the website also displayed UPHC Kukatpally administering Covishield for free but all slots were booked till January 18. Covaxin remains to be in stock. On Saturday, the State had 2,22,080 doses of Covaxin at CCP and DVS and another 52,870 doses stocked at State-level stores.

A.P. village gearing up to host bullock cart race today

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

Munagapaka, a fertile village that is known for its crops of paddy and sugarcane in Anakapalli district of Andhra Pradesh, is gearing up to host the traditional bullock cart race on the occasion of Sankranti on Sunday. The four-acre field of Sri Rama temple in the village has been prepared to host the event. Around 20 bullock cart owners have registered to participate in it. Around 30,000 spectators are expected to witness the race.

The competitions' committee chairman Dadi Appalanaidu said they have been organising the bullock cart race for the past 13 years.

G.O. preventing public meetings set afire by Naidu in Bhogi bonfire

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday consigned the copies of Government Order (G.O.) No.1 to the Bhogi bonfire lit as part of the Sankranti festivities at his native Naravaripalle village in Andhra Pradesh.

A huge bonfire was lit at the village centre and the copies of the "gag order" were thrown by the party leaders into the fire in a symbolic protest against the G.O. that prevented public meetings on roads. The G.O. was issued in the wake of stampedes in TDP programmes.

TDP Chandragiri incharge Pulivarthi Nani, media coordinator Sridhar Varma and other leaders participated.

Strong move: TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu, party leaders burning the copies of G.O. No. 1.

The Nara family is staying at its ancestral village for the three-day Sankranti. Residents and party sympathisers are making a beeline for the village to greet TDP chief.

Vande Bharat Express fares announced

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The ticket for travel from Secunderabad to Visakhapatnam by Vande Bharat Express to be flagged off by video linkage by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday morning will be ₹1,665 in chair class and ₹3,120 in executive class, including catering charges.

In the return direction from Visakhapatnam to Secunderabad, the fare will be ₹1,720 in chair class and ₹3,170 in executive class. The difference in charges in up and down journeys by ₹50 to ₹55 was owing to varied food items in catering service. The passengers will be served tea, breakfast, lunch (ex-Visakhapatnam) and only dinner from Secunderabad to Visakhapatnam.

Thousands attend *Makaravilakku* festival at Sabarimala Ayyappa temple

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

Amid an unprecedented rush of devotees, who had been camping in and around the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple for the past few days, the *Makaravilakku* festival was celebrated at the hill temple on Saturday.

Braving the heavy rush, thousands of devotees queued up for hours to have a glimpse of *Makarajyoti*, a celestial star that appears on the eastern horizon of the *sannidhanam*, and the *Makaravilakku deeparadhana* performed atop the Ponnambalamedu hillock facing the temple. The entire pilgrimage zone, including surrounding hills, had been packed with crowds for the past few days, awaiting the twilight delight.

Celestial light: Devotees worshipping the *Makaravilakku* that appeared on the Ponnambalamedu hillock on Saturday. LEJU KAMAL

Prior to the ritual, Kulathinal Gangadharan Pillai, who headed a 22-member team carrying the sacred jewels from the Pandalam palace, handed over the jewellery box to the *Tantri* and the *Melsanthi*. Devaswom Minister K. Radhakrishnan, Travancore Devaswom Board president K. Ananthagopan and others were present on the occasion.

Devotion reached a feverish pitch when the deeparadhana was performed atop the Ponnambalamedu and the bright flame of *Makaravilakku* was sighted three times around 6.45 p.m. Besides those at the *sannidhanam*, people took positions at the various vantage points around the Sabarimala hills to witness the celestial light. The police had initiated elaborate security arrangements at all these locations.

BUSINESS CONNECT — A Business Initiative

Dr Ranjan Pai's MEMG Family Office invests in KITES Senior Care (Geriatric Care specialists) Bengaluru, 10th January 2023:

KITES Senior Care, a pure play Geriatric care service provider, founded by Rajagopal G, Dr A S Arvind and Dr Reema Nadig announced the closure of Pre Series. A funding of US$2 Mn from Dr Ranjan Pai's family office. KITES Senior Care (KITES) has carved a niche within the entire gamut of elder care by focussing on providing a range of "Out of Hospital care services" covering both pre and post hospitalisation rehab care, palliative care and dementia care. This fund infusion will be used in scaling the operations in Bengaluru, expand into Hyderabad & Chennai and in rolling out an integrated technology platform which will connect the entire senior care eco system in their health management and well-being. Mr Rajagopal G, Co-Founder & CEO of the Company said "The Investment from Dr Pai's family office is a very strong endorsement of our journey. What excites us more is the fact that we will be able to leverage the deep insight and experience of Dr Pai & his team and create a formidable enterprise in this still nascent and emerging healthcare space, intertwined with technology backbone". "I have been closely observing the trends in the emerging elder care space both globally and specifically in India. I believe the elder care space is at the same cusp what private hospitals were in early 1980. I am very excited to be a catalyst in this journey and nurture budding entrepreneurs like Raj and Reema who have the vision and passion". Dr Pai stated. KITES, the brand of Lifebridge Senior Care P Ltd, operates and manages two care facilities with 70 beds in Bengaluru which are running at their capacity and manage care for over 200 elders at home at any point in time. Since 2016, KITES have provided care to over 4,500 seniors and elders in Bengaluru and have slowly established the trust & reputation for quality and reliable services. KITES also partners with few retirement homes & assisted living facilities in providing medical care for their senior residents. "Our care facilities and care program are tailored to meet the specific 'Out of hospital' needs of elders. Our proprietary six star assessment process combined with well-defined care processes and measurable outcomes helps, in delivering superior care and great experience to the families" said Dr Reema N, Cofounder and COO.

"We at MEMG are keen to work with Entrepreneurs who have demonstrated capability of building businesses in niche areas of health care supported by technology to create impactful & scalable models. We find that KITES team has demonstrated the acceptance and viability of the emerging model in geriatric care. Their technology platform is very exciting which will add tremendous value to seniors in their wellbeing" said Mr Vaitheeswaran, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the Manipal Education & Medical Group (MEMG). Raj also added "We are very grateful to our existing shareholders and mentors specifically Dr A S Arvind, Padma Shri Dr Kamini Rao, Mr Mohan Alexander former Vice Chairman of Kopal Amba & Mr B V Naidu, Chairman, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission who have trusted and supported us to reach to this stage." As part of the immediate growth plan, KITES has already signed-up a large 80 bedded rehab unit in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, which is slated to go-live in Feb '23. They have also entered into a managed contract model with a reputed Industrial house in Chennai, which will also go live this quarter. The tech platform is getting ready to be launched in the market place by Feb '23.

MC&A Golden Jubilee

Karnataka State Marketing Communication & Advertising Limited (KSMCA) celebrated its Golden Jubilee on 4th of January at the Taj West End Hotel, Bengaluru. The event was inaugurated by Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka. Speaking on the occasion he said that a government institution doing commercial business is a big challenge. Despite several restrictions it is giving stiff competition to private companies, which is a matter of pride.

He also said that a man completing 50 years may not be big thing but a company crossing 50 years is an important occasion. Dr. Murugesh R. Nirani, Honourable Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries, unveiled the new Logo

of the Company and released the commemorative Postal Cover. Dr. Nirani expressed that the Company which was established in 1972 has been growing steadily and under the leadership of Sri M.S. Kari Goudra, Chairman and Sri Siddalingappa B. Poojari, Managing Director and with the guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister has been a profit making organization. Sri B.S. Yediyurappa, former Chief Minister of Karnataka released the Souvenir to mark this occasion and said that the Company along with creating Ads for the Govt. sector should also foray into the private sector and towards this the company needed to be autonomous and he suggested that Hon'ble Minister Dr. Nirani should take the lead in this. Sri Siddalingappa B. Poojari in his introductory address described the company's journey so far and informed that the company had achieved a turnover of Rs. 406.03 crores in the last financial year. Sri M.S. Kari Goudra, Chairman, KSMCA, outlined the future plans of the company like starting a T.V. Channel, Construction of own buildings for Branch Offices and emphasized the need to collect overdue amounts from the clients. He also presented a memorandum to the Chief Minister regarding the future requirements for the Company. Sri C.C. Patil, Hon'ble PWD Minister, Dr. E.V. Ramana Reddy, Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt., Commerce & Industries Department were also present on the occasion. Sri Rizwan Arshad, Hon'ble MLA, Shivajinagar Assembly Constituency presided over the function.

From Page One

Govt. arms civilians in border villages

Home Minister Amit Shah, however, said on January 13 that the strengthening of the VDCs should not be linked to the Dangri killings. At a press conference in Jammu on Friday, responding to a question from *The Hindu* about the intention behind giving arms training to civilians, Mr. Shah said, "Do not link the training of VDCs to Dangri killings. A decision was taken at the end of August 2022 to strengthen the VDCs."

There are strong indications of heightened terrorist activity in the militancy-free Jammu region over the past two years, officials said. Mr. Shah said the National Investigation Agency and the Jammu and Kashmir Police would investigate all terror attacks in the Jammu region over the past one and a half years, adding that a 360-degree security grid would be readied for Jammu over the next three months.

30,000 weapons with civilians

Across Jammu's districts, including Poonch, Rajouri, Samba, Doda and Kishtwar, the number of weapons with civilians now stands at 30,000, said a senior J&K police officer.

There at least 16 cases pending in various courts against the formation of these VDCs, or Village Defence Guards (VDG) as they are called now.

The J&K police officer said that it was difficult to predict the effectiveness of the VDCs. "In Dangri village, per previous records, there are at least 71 individuals with registered weapons provided by police. However, on the day of the incident, none fired, though later a man claimed that he fired few rounds from his .303 rifle. Our assessment showed that 27 weapons were either not in use or were locked in iron trunks," he said.

A senior government official said the government was not absolving itself of responsibilities by arming civilians. "A State is empowered to empower its citizens. There are three aspects to this: protection, confidence building of a community, and visibility of armed people that could act as a deterrence in case of an attack," the official said.

Ashwini Sudhyal, a 23-year-old police aspirant, has other concerns. "I live on the zero line on Pakistan border. I trekked six kilometres on foot before catching a bus to reach this place. It took me an hour. Can you request the government to build a road to my village? Self-defence training is fine but what about our basic necessities?" he asked.

'Don't share details on Joshimath with media'

It said the issue of institutions talking to the media was highlighted during a meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah, and added that an expert group had been formed to assess the situation in Joshimath. The communication by the NDMA was directed to officials of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun; Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee; Central Building Research Institute; Roorkee; Geological Survey of India, Kolkata; National Remote Sensing Centre of the ISRO; National Institute Of Disaster Management, New Delhi; Indian Institute Of Remote Sensing, Dehradun; National Geographical Research Institute, Hyderabad; Central Ground Water Board, New Delhi; and Surveyor General Of India.

Lakshadweep MP disqualified

A notification to the effect was issued by Lok Sabha Secretary General Utpal Kumar Singh on Friday. Talking to *The Hindu*, NCP Kerala chief P.T. Chacko alleged that the Lok Sabha Secretariat had issued the notification even before the receipt of the official communication from the court about the conviction. This reeks of political vendetta, he said.

"The Kerala High Court is set to take up our plea both for bail and the stay of his conviction on Tuesday. Based on the outcome of that we will move the apex court. We are hopeful that he will be granted bail," said Mr. Chacko.

Jharkand's doctor *didis* creating social capital

"With the help of the *pashu sakhis* or doctor *didis* of Jharkhand, the mortality rate of goats has come down by about 30%, and of poultry by 40%," said Pravin Singh, a senior official in the Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society, a unit of the State's agriculture department.

Compared to the days before the *pashu sakhis* began their work, the average income of farmers from small backyard livestock production has risen between 55 to 125 times, according to the U.K.'s Oxford Group.

In December, a World Bank newsletter said that the *pashu sakhi* model under JOHAR had been selected by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Food Policy Research Institute as one of the top eight global best practice models for farmer service delivery.

Besides the technical training in animal rearing though, the success of the women is because of the respect they have garnered both by their professional success and the income they bring in for their families.

Madurai-Delhi flight diverted but ailing flyer passes away

Press Trust of India
INDORE

An IndiGo flight from Madurai to Delhi was diverted to Indore after a 60-year-old passenger's health deteriorated mid-air on Saturday evening, a senior official said.

After the flight landed at the Devi Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport at 5.30 p.m., the passenger was taken to a private hospital nearby where doctors declared him brought dead, reported the official.

"As per the initial information, Atul Gupta (60), who was on board the IndiGo Airlines flight 6E-2088, was bleeding from the mouth and his condition deteriorated midway through the journey," Prabodh Chandra Sharma, director in-charge of the airport said.

"According to a doctor who took Gupta from the airport to the hospital, he was already suffering from a heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes," Mr. Sharma said. He said the flight later took off for New Delhi at 6:40 p.m.

U.S. official slams China's aggressive moves on LAC

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu says the U.S. stands with India on border conflict, moving past the stand that India and China resolve the conflict through direct negotiations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The U.S. feels China has not taken any "good faith steps" to resolve the conflict along the Line of Actual Control and is continuing its "aggressive moves", said senior U.S. official Donald Lu, during a visit to Delhi where he held talks with officials of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Although the U.S. has said that India and China should resolve through direct negotiations the "border conflict" that has been escalating since China amassed troops along the LAC in April 2020, the official said it was the U.S. assessment that China has not made positive moves in that direction, referring specifically to the recently attempted incursions by PLA soldiers in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang region in December.

Mr. Lu, addressing the India-U.S. Forum, also disclosed that National Security Adviser Ajit Doval will travel to the U.S. later this month for high-level talks on critical and emerging technology, including Indo-U.S. cooperation on quantum computing, artificial intelligence (AI), 5G-telecommunication networks and bio-technology. Mr. Lu's talks in Delhi was in preparation for the NSA talks as well as the upcoming visit of U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken to India in March to attend the G-20 Foreign Minister's meeting and the annual Raisina Dialogue conference hosted by the MEA.

> In 2020, when the Chinese military attacked an Indian border post in the Galwan valley, the U.S. was the first to criticise Chinese aggression
>
> **DONALD LU**
> U.S. Assistant Secretary of State

"We have not seen that the PRC (People's Republic of China) has taken good faith steps to resolve the border conflict. Quite the opposite, we have seen aggressive Chinese moves along India's border, most recently in India's northeastern States," Mr. Lu, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, said in an interview to the *NDTV*.

"In 2020, when the Chinese military attacked an Indian border post in the Galwan valley, the U.S. was the first to criticise Chinese aggression and to offer support to India," he added.

The comments also come months after China reacted sharply to similar comments by the Commander of U.S. Army Pacific General Charles A. Flynn, who had referred to PLA moves in its region as "destabilising and coercive behaviour" on an "incremental and insidious path". The then-Chinese MFA spokesperson Zhao Lijian, who has since been posted as Deputy Director General of Border Affairs, had said that the U.S. was "trying to add fuel to fire" and called Gen. Flynn's comments "despicable".

When asked about the continued delay in sending a U.S. Ambassador to India, a post that has not been filled for more than two years, Mr. Lu blamed the U.S. "system" of senate confirmations, adding that with former Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti being renominated by U.S. President Biden last week, he was confident that there would be a U.S. Ambassador in India "very soon".

'Mishra's claim that woman urinated on herself is false'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Counsel for the elderly woman who complained that Shankar Mishra urinated on her on an Air India flight in November has reacted with outrage to Mr. Mishra's defence in a Delhi court claiming that the complainant had urinated on herself.

"It has been brought to our knowledge that certain scurrilous and defamatory allegations have been made on behalf of the accused before the ASJ, Patiala House Court. Needless to state, the allegations are completely false and concocted and by their very nature are disparaging and derogatory," said Ankur Mahindro, counsel for the victim.

It added that the allegationwas a complete contradiction and *volte face* of the statements made by the accused to plead his case in his bail application. "The endeavour of the victim throughout has been to ensure that institutional changes are made...," Mr. Mahindro said.

1 killed, 20 injured in stampede at Makar Mela in Odisha's Cuttack

Press Trust of India
CUTTACK (ODISHA)

At least one person was killed and 20 others injured in a stampede onthe Badamba-Gopinathpur T-Bridge in Cuttack district of Odisha, where a large number of people congregated on Saturday on the occasion of Makar Mela, the police said.

Badamba-Narsinghpur MLA and former Minister Debi Prasad Mishra confirmed that a woman, identified as 45-year-old Anjana Swain, died in the incident, while four seriously injured people were admitted to SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack city. Other injured persons were admitted to a community health centre (CHC) in Badamba.

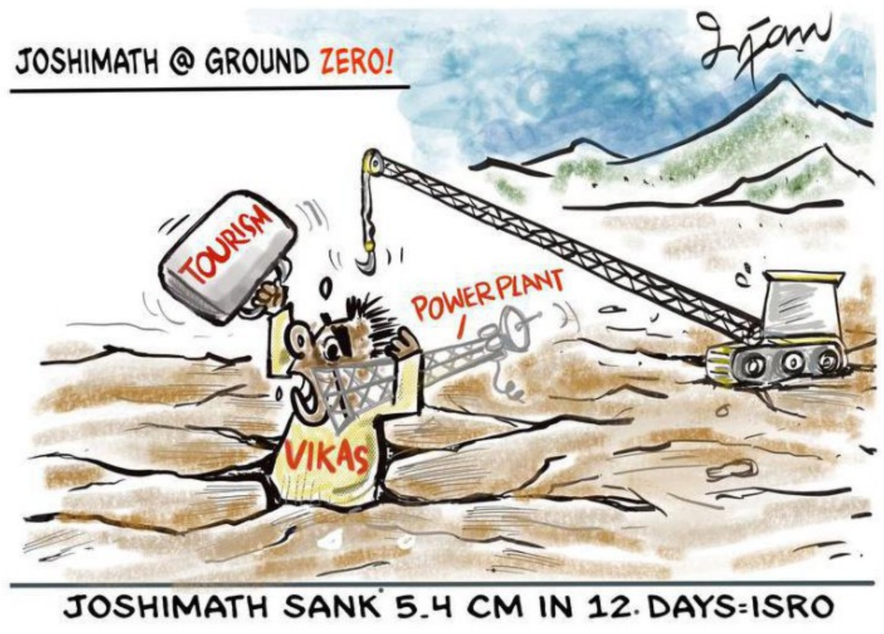
Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed grief over the incident and announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased.

"The injured people will get free treatment and I wish their speedy recovery," he said in a statement.

Athagarh Sub-collector Hemanta Kumar Swain said the incident took place due to a sudden increase in the number of devotees in the afternoon to visit a fair organised on the occasion, and also to pay obeisance to Lord Singhanath.

The district administration said the congregation was massive as people were visiting the temple after a gap of two years, due to COVID-19 pandemic.

On the draw



Rajnath launches Soul of Steel endurance challenge in Dehradun

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday kickstarted the Soul of Steel alpine challenge, an initiative to promote tourism in border areas, at an event in Dehradun coinciding with Veterans Day.

The expedition will test one's high-altitude endurance and will initially have 12 Indian participants plus six international teams, in the age group of 18 to 30. The challenge will be spread across three months.

The Minister launched a website for volunteers to sign up for various adventure activities under the joint initiative of the Indian Army and CLAW Global, a veterans' organisation, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Celebrating service: Rajnath Singh and Pushkar Singh Dhami with ex-servicemen and their families at the Veterans' Rally. PTI

Road to the End, a 460-km car rally, was also flagged off as part of a joint expedition by the Army and CLAW Global. The rally will reach its destination in the Garhwal Himalayas near Niti village in Chamoli district in the next three days.

Addressing the Veterans Day ceremony, Mr. Singh pointed out, "Our brave soldiers have made a huge contribution in transforming India's image across the world to that of a powerful and respectful nation."

"Every soldier of today is a respected veteran of tomorrow. It is our duty to ensure their well-being and satisfaction," the Minister suggested.

The celebrations were held at nine locations. In Chennai, it was presided over by Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt.

The first armed forces Veterans Day was celebrated on January, 14, 2016, coinciding with the retirement of the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa.

Goyal promises strict action against FCI officials involved in corruption

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the CBI recently raided several Food Corporation of India (FCI) offices and filed cases against its officials, Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday that strict action will be taken against those found involved in corruption. Addressing officers on the 59th Foundation Day of the FCI, Mr. Goyal said the organisation will adopt a policy of zero tolerance for corruption and will institutionalise a mechanism to reward whistleblowers.

The Minister said the transformation of the FCI should be done in a fast-track mode so that the organisation can continue to help the people of the country. He asked the Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, to monitor the transformation of FCI and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) every week and to update him on the status on a fortnightly basis. "Strict action has to be taken against the officers who do not cooperate with or delay the transformation process," he said.

Commenting on the investigation against the alleged cases of corruption, Mr. Goyal said that it's a wake-up call for the organisation and promised that no one found involved will be spared. He asked all officers and staff of the FCI to report any incident of corruption.

EIA must be done before sanction of urban projects: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has urged legislators and policy experts to ensure that Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies are done before giving the green signal for urban development projects in India's cities.

In a judgment, a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and B.V. Nagarathna referred to media reports of how haphazard urban development has ruined the 'Garden City' of Bengaluru as witnessed during a major spell of rain in September 2022. The court said that the city struggled for drinking water while it lay submerged after the downpour.

The judgment came on a proposal to convert residential units into apartments.

'Take note of damage'

The judgment came in regard to a proposal to convert independent residential units into apartments in Chandigarh Phase 1. The court prohibited the move in order to protect the heritage status of 'Corbusian' Chandigarh.

"It is high time that the legislature, the executive and policymakers at the Centre as well as at the State levels take note of the damage to the environment on account of haphazard developments and take a call to take necessary measures to ensure that the development does not damage the environment. It is necessary that a proper balance is struck between sustainable development and environmental protection," the court observed.

It said that the legislature, the governments and experts should put their heads together "to make necessary provisions for carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies before permitting urban development".

The apex court directed the copies of the judgment to be forwarded to the Cabinet Secretary to the Union of India and to the Chief Secretaries of all the States to take note of it.

"We hope that the Union of India as well as the State governments will take earnest steps in that regard," the court said.

Bank unions to organise two-day strike on Jan. 30, 31

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) has called a nationwide bank strike on January 30 and 31 to demand the introduction of a five-day working week, reverting to the old pension scheme and others.

An umbrella body of officers and employees unions of nine banks, the UFBU took the decision to revive its agitation, for resolution of the demands, at a meeting held earlier this week in Mumbai. The UFBU is also demanding immediate commencement of negotiations on the charter of demands for wage revision, updating of pension for retirees and resolution of residual issues.

It has proposed to hold demonstrations for two days in the run-up to the strike. The UFBU had in June given a call for strike but deferred it after the Indian Banks' Association, at a conciliation meeting called by Chief Labour Commissioner, agreed to hold discussions.

On the demand for recruitment, UFBU convener Sanjeev K. Bandlish said there was an acute shortage of staff in most branches in all the cadres.

CBI visits Sisodia's office in Delhi; AAP questions probe agency's motive

The Central probe agency had named the Delhi Deputy Chief Minister as one of the accused in the liquor policy case; Bharatiya Janata Party says AAP is dramatising a routine inquiry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team on Monday visited the office of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia at the Delhi Secretariat, triggering a sharp reaction from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders.

An agency source said that it was not a search operation, but only a visit in connection with the investigation in the Delhi excise policy case.

Taking to Twitter, Mr. Sisodia said that the CBI had "reached my office again, they are welcome", adding that the agency found "nothing against" him during its previous searches that were conducted at his residence, office and village.

He added, "Nothing has been found against me and nothing will be found because I have not done anything wrong. [I have] sincerely worked for the education of the children of Delhi."

Under lens: Media persons outside the Delhi Secretariat during the CBI's searches at Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's office in New Delhi. PTI

Mr. Sisodia is one among the 15 accused who were named in the agency's FIR registered on August 17 last year, alleging multiple irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped excise policy.

The AAP, in an official statement, questioned the motive behind the agency's visit, adding that if the latter was not conducting a raid, they should "explain what they got out of it".

The CBI investigation into the alleged scam was recommended by Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena last year, while the agency also conducted searches in several locations in Delhi, including Mr. Sisodia's official residence, and in Chandigarh, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Gurugram.

Reacting to the development, Delhi BJP working president Virendra Sachdeva said that Mr. Sisodia had, yet again, resorted to dramatising a routine inquiry led by the investigation agency.

Congress halts Bharat Jodo Yatra for a day in Punjab segment after death of MP

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Congress MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary on Saturday died from a cardiac arrest, following which the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, currently in Punjab, was suspended for a day as a mark of respect for the deceased.

"Bharat Jodo Yatra will be suspended for 24 hours as a mark of respect for Santokh Singh Choudhary, Congress MP from Jalandhar who passed away this morning. The Yatra will resume tomorrow afternoon from Khalsa College Ground, Jalandhar," senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter.

The 76-year-old, two-time Congress MP from Jalandhar was participating in the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which started early in the morning from Phillaur. He went into cardiac arrest when the march was between Phillaur and Goraya towns.

He was rushed to the civil hospital at Phagwara, where he was declared brought dead. Later, the body was shifted to his residence in Jalandhar.

Rahul Gandhi consoling family members of Congress MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary in Jalandhar on Saturday. PTI

"Santokh Singh Chaudhary, aged 76, Congress MP from Jalandhar, passed away from a sudden cardiac arrest during the Bharat Jodo Yatra this morning. We extend our deepest condolences to his family," senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said.

Tributes pour in

The Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa, said that Chaudhary was walking along with another Congress MP when he collapsed. Mr. Bajwa said in a tweet: "Extremely saddened on passing away of Jalandhar MP and my dear friend SS Chaudhary ji. We have lost a gem, his void will be difficult to fill. My heartfelt condolences to his son MLA Vikram Chaudhary, friends and family. May the departed soul rest in peace."

"Deeply shocked and saddened to learn about the untimely passing away of our MP, Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary. His loss is a great blow to the party and organisation. In this hour of grief, my heart goes out to his family, friends and followers. May his soul rest in peace," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said.

"I'm deeply saddened by the untimely death of Congress Member of Parliament from Jalandhar, Santokh Singh Chaudhary. May God rest his soul in peace," Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann tweeted.

Snowed up

On the skids: Lorries carrying essential goods to various parts of the country stranded in snow in Anantnag on Friday. ANI

Clear political messaging in Congress follow-up to Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra

NEWS ANALYSIS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A cooking gas cylinder for ₹500, cheaper petrol and diesel and jobs for youth. These are the promises that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has made in his one-page letter to citizens as part of the *Haath se haath jodo abhiyan*.

Unlike the Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY), the programme will carry a strong political message and cover over 10 lakh polling booths between January 26 and March 26.

Looking ahead

And the Congress has also dropped a not-so-subtle hint about who will be the party's face for the 2024 Lok Sabha election, with Mr. Gandhi signing off his letter with "*aapka apna* (your own) Rahul".

Rahul Gandhi

The campaign – that will distinctly have the Congress's election symbol – will be carrying Mr. Gandhi's poll promises in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

"I am determined to create economic prosperity for everyone – right price for farmers' produce, jobs for our youth, fair distribution of the country's wealth, an enabling environment for MSMEs and entrepreneurs, cheaper diesel, a stronger rupee, and a gas cylinder for ₹500," Mr. Gandhi said in his open letter to citizens.

Along with Mr. Gandhi's letter, Congress workers will also be distributing a chargesheet against the Narendra Modi government.

'Voice to the voiceless'

"I understand that my personal and political journey is one – to give voice to the voiceless, to be the weapon of the weak, to take India from darkness to light, from hate to love, from suffering to prosperity. I will carry forward the vision and values of those who gave us our extraordinary Constitution," Mr. Gandhi said.

The Congress leader's counter to the BJP slogan *Acche Din* (good days) is *Swarnim Bharat* (golden India).

"The *Haath se Haath Jodo Abhiyan* is our initiative to spread the message of unity and brotherhood. Through this historic *Abhiyan* (campaign), the Congress party is extending its hand to you – lend a hand, come together to put the country back on the path of building a Swarnim Bharat – where every single Indian has an equal chance to fulfil their dreams," the former Congress chief said.

Republic Day celebration to be held in Dubai

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Hundreds of non-resident Indians (NRIs), mostly from Uttar Pradesh, and people from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will gather to listen to the poetry of some of India's most popular Hindi and Urdu poets.

The Indian Republic Day Kavi Sammelan and Mushaira will be held at the Sheikh Rashid auditorium of the Indian High School in Dubai on January 28.

Pramod Tiwari, MP, will inaugurate the event.

The event aims to take the messages of unity in diversity, peace, and harmony, embedded in language and verse, to an international audience. Poets Uday Pratap Singh, Nayyar Jalalpuri, Uroosa Arshi and others will participate.

Syed Salahuddin says, "The event was decided to be organised annually around January 26 as our Preamble itself envisages secular credentials for our nation, and shows commitment to syncretic culture."

BJP wants to enforce CAA to make minority communities less important: Amartya Sen

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Nobel Laureate economist Amartya Sen believes that implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) could reduce the role of minorities in the country, while it would encourage majoritarian forces. In an interview with *PTI*, he said the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, had worked for a "just polity, and a good sense of national identity" for all sections of society.

"As far as I can see, one of the BJP's purposes (by implementing CAA) is to reduce the role of minorities and make them less important and, in a direct and indirect way, increase the role of the Hindu majoritarian forces in India and to that extent undermine the minorities," the economist said.

The CAA through which the Union government wants to grant Indian nationality to non-Muslim migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019, and the Presidential nod was received the next day.

Amartya Sen

However, the law is yet to be implemented as rules under the CAA are not framed.

"It's very unfortunate for a country like India, which is meant to be a secular, egalitarian nation, and it has also been used for particularly unfortunate discriminatory action like declaring minorities, whether from Bangladesh or West Bengal, as foreign rather than indigenous. This is pretty demeaning and I would regard that to be a bad move basically," he said.

Asked whether the BJP-led Union government has improved in its performance in these years, Mr. Sen replied in the negative. "I do not think it has improved. I think what India needs is a recognition that every Indian has certain rights and they come from their membership of the nation. That was after all what Mahatma Gandhi tried to do," he said.

Mahatma Gandhi did not try to cultivate one group against another, Mr. Sen said adding that despite being a "strongly committed Hindu in a religious way", he was willing to give Muslims much more standing than they had at that time before Independence.

"I think the move was for a fair culture, a just polity, and a good sense of national identity. Someday India will regret the neglect of the minorities like Muslims," the economist said.

The objective is to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities like Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

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TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No.	Tender Id	Items
1	2023_KMML_545700_1	For the supply of Petals for Digester-36 M2
2	2023_KMML_545939_1	For fabrication and supply of 12 Nos. Process Vessel
3	2023_KMML_546531_1	For the supply of PTFE Lined Plug Valves
4	2023_KMML_547217_1	For the supply of 210L Nominal Capacity M.S Open Top Drums with Lid, Oring/Gasket and Clamping Ring
5	2023_KMML_548952_1	For the supply of Paint and Thinner

Chavara 13.01.2023 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

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NOTICE

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उत्तर प्रदेश आवास एवं विकास परिषद
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, अयोध्या वृत्त
ऑफिस काम्प्लेक्स, प्रथम तल, अंगूरीबाग योजना, अयोध्या-224001
Email: upavp.ayodhya@gmail.com

पत्रांकः 70/एम-10/04 **ई–निविदा सूचना** दिनांकः 12.01.2023

अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा, परिषद की ओर से जनपद-अयोध्या में प्रस्तावित भूमि विकास, गृहस्थान एवं बाजार योजना (ग्रीन फील्ड टाउनशिप) अयोध्या के ग्राम शाहनेवाजपुर मांझा की भूमि में अवस्थापना विकास कार्य हेतु टू-बिड पद्धति पर निविदा, (निविदा सूचना संख्या-52/एम-10/03 **दिनांक 12.01.2023** द्वारा) **दिनांक 10.02.2023** को अपरान्ह **03:00 बजे** तक आमंत्रित की गयी है, जिसकी तकनीकी बिड उसी दिन अपरान्ह **03:30 बजे** खोली जायेगी। निविदा का विवरण, नियम व शर्तें परिषद की वेबसाइट **www.upavp.in** तथा **www.etender.up.nic.in** पर देखी जा सकती है।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
अयोध्या वृत्त

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
वित्त मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF FINANCE
राजस्व विभाग DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
केन्द्रीय अप्रत्यक्ष कर और सीमा शुल्क बोर्ड
CENTRAL BOARD OF INDIRECT TAXES AND CUSTOMS
आयुक्त का कार्यालय OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
केन्द्रीय कर एवं केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क CENTRAL TAX & CENTRAL EXCISE
कोच्चि KOCHI
केन्द्रीय राजस्व भवन, CENTRAL REVENUE BUILDING
आई.एस.प्रेस रोड, कोच्चि, I.S. PRESS ROAD, KOCHI-682 018
E-mail: cexcochi@nic.in Fax: 0484-2390608 Phone: 0484-2390404

RECRUITMENT AGAINST SPORTS QUOTA IN THE CENTRAL TAX AND CENTRAL EXCISE DEPARTMENT, KOCHI–2022-23

Applications are invited from Meritorious Sports Persons who have represented the Country/State/University/School in the International/ National/ Inter University competitions for appointment to the post of Tax Assistant / Stenographer (Grade-II) / Havaldar / Canteen Attendant. The notification is being made available shortly on Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs Departmental official website **http://www.cbic.gov.in** and the Central Tax & Central Excise (CCA), Kochi Commissionerate, Kochi website **http://www.cenexcisekochi.gov.in**. It consists of the details regarding the discipline of Sports earmarked for recruitment, educational qualifications, other eligibility conditions and application forms. A copy of the duly filled application shall be signed and submitted to this office by post or in person so as to reach the above address within office hours on or before 15.02.2023.

Sd/- Additional Commissioner (P&V)
O / o The Commissioner of Central Tax & Central Excise, Kochi
Commissionerate, Hqrs. Office, C.R.Building,
I.S.Press Road, Kochi – 682 018

V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY
Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Department
E-Tender - NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

1	Tender No.	MEE/CMEP1/MEC/LINCON/V1/22
2	Tender Type	Providing new Link Conveyor from CJ I, CJ-II & NCB-I conveyors to coal yard near Yellow Gate for handling coal (not meant for TTPS & NTPL) with a stockpiling capacity of 90,000 T on EPC basis and Comprehensive O&M for a period of 5 years
3	Estimated Cost put to tender	Rs.21,19,52,944/-
4	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs.42,39,059/- (Rupees Forty Two Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousands and Fifty Nine only).Refer EMD Clause
5	Downloading of Tender document from VOCPA e-tendering website	14.01.2023 to 04.02.2023
6	Bid Submission end date & time	04.02.2023 at 18.30 hours
7	Bid opening date & time	06.02.2023 at 15:30 hours

For further details, visit Port website **www.vocport.gov.in** & VOCPA E-Tendering Website **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**

sd/-
CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER

INBRIEF

SII dispatching 80 lakh doses of Covishield to Centre

Amid a rise in COVID-19 cases in some countries, the Serum Institute of India (SII) has started supply of Covishield to the Centre free of cost with the first lot of 80 lakh doses being dispatched on Saturday, official sources said. Since the launch of the anti-COVID vaccination drive, the SII has provided 170 crore doses of Covishield to the government. According to an official source, Prakash Kumar Singh, Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs, SII, had written to the Union Health Ministry stating that the Pune-based firm would provide two crore doses of Covishield vaccine estimated at ₹410 crore to the government free of cost. PTI

Court issues notice as Gadling denied treatment in Taloja jail

A sessions court at Gadchiroli in Maharashtra has issued a notice to the Superintendent and the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Taloja Central Jail, with regards to their failure to take Advocate Surendra Gadling to hospital last year, even three months after being directed to do so by the court. Mr. Gadling is an accused in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case of 2018. Sessions judge U.B. Shukla passed an order on January 12 to issue notice to the Superintendent and the CMO to explain why directions given by the court were not followed and why an action should not be initiated against them for committing breach of orders.

Rajasthan first to implement a blindness control policy

Rajasthan has become the first State to implement a policy to control blindness, with the objective of ensuring the "right to sight". Under the policy, a drive will be undertaken in the State to reduce the rate of blindness, and bring light into the lives of over 3 lakh people. The policy aims to bring down the prevalence rate of blindness in the State, which was 1.1% in 2020, to 0.3%. Medical and Health Secretary Prithvi Raj said the State government would mandatorily run keratoplasty centres for cornea transplant and eye banks in medical colleges. The cornea collected by private bodies and non-government organisations receiving financial aid will be made available to government institutions on priority.

6 held in Mumbai for putting up posters of Chhota Rajan

The Mumbai Police on Saturday arrested six persons for allegedly putting up posters celebrating the birthday of gangster Chhota Rajan at Malad in the city. According to the police, the organiser of a Kabaddi programme is among the six arrested. The posters read, "Welcome the honoured dignitaries". The Kabaddi programme was scheduled for January 14 and 15. "They have been remanded to judicial custody. We are trying to establish the links between the gangster and the arrested group," the police said. After his arrest in 2015, Chhota Rajan has been lodged in Tihar Jail in Delhi.

SUDOKU

				8			4	
			4				3	
		4	7	2			6	1
9	7		5					
		6				4		
					9		2	8
4	1			9	7	2		
	9				4			
	5			1				

No.SS5680 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	4	2	6	8	3	5	9	1
3	9	1	4	7	5	6	8	2
5	6	8	2	9	1	4	3	7
8	2	6	5	1	4	9	7	3
4	1	3	7	2	9	8	6	5
9	5	7	3	6	8	1	2	4
2	3	5	9	4	6	7	1	8
6	8	4	1	3	7	2	5	9
1	7	9	8	5	2	3	4	6

Agniveers breathe fire in 'optimised' training

With the engagement period of the new set of soldiers far shorter than that of previous recruits, training module has been trimmed and duration has been optimised to between 24 and 31 weeks; for the moment, they focus on the intense drills, with Army relying on technology-based solutions

Sobhana K. Nair
RANIKHET

The torchbearers: The first batch of Agniveers practising at the Somnath Sharma Parade Ground in the Kumaon Regimental Headquarters in Ranikhet. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Against the expanse of a clear blue sky and surrounded by green mountains, 796 Agniveers train hard in Ranikhet's mid-morning winter sun. They are on the Somnath Sharma Parade ground at the regimental headquarters of the Kumaon Regiment. Here, they march, fall into formation and learn the use of weaponry. The ground is named after India's first Param Vir Chakra recipient, who, at 24, died in the Battle of Badgam on November 3, 1947 repulsing Pakistani infiltrators near the Srinagar airport.

The men training here, part of the first batch of 19,000, are younger, between 17 and 23 and will go into history as being a part of India's biggest military reform since Independence.

The Agnipath scheme, announced by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on June 14 last year, involves recruiting soldiers, airmen and sailors, who will serve the forces for a contractual four-year period. Post their term of engagement, only 25% will be enrolled into the regular cadre. The rest, the Defence Ministry says, will "be released, duly empowered and up-skilled, for a second career in civil society".

Nearly 60 lakh applications were received (37 lakh for the Army, 15 lakh for the Navy and 7.7 lakh for the Air Force). There were 96 recruitment rallies in each of the States and Union Territories, at the end of which 40,000 Agniveers were selected. Of these, 3,000 are being trained for the Air Force, and 2,800 for the Navy. The second batch of Army trainees will see 100 women, while the Navy has inducted 270 women.

A trimmed schedule

For the moment, the Agniveers focus on the intense drills. Batches of men are scattered across the ground. A company wearing khakis, with helmets and warpaint on their cheeks, menacingly bares their teeth, their rifles fitted with a bayonet peg. They let out a cry and charge at an imaginary enemy. Their instructor says, "They will repeat it, till it becomes muscle memory and till each one of them thrusts their bayonets with precision."

With the engagement period of Agniveers far shorter than that of previous recruits, the training module has been trimmed. Earlier, training schedules in the Army varied from six months to two years, depending on the arm the jawan was selected into. The training duration has been optimised to between 24 and 31 weeks.

For example, at the infantry's Kumaon Regiment, the Agniveers will do a six-month training stint rather than the regular nine months. Brigadier I.S. Samyal, Commandant, Kumaon Regimental Centre, explained that out of the "must know, should know and could know", the "could know" part of the training has been eliminated. "We are relying on technology-based solutions such as high-end simulators to give them practice of firing in difficult conditions and terrains," he said.

The training schedules are not novel for the Agniveers: Ajay Kumar Yadav, a 22-year-old from Ludhiana, Punjab, has been running long distances and strength training over the past five years. He failed to make the cut thrice, and managed to get through last November during the recruitment drive for Agniveers. He is the only child of a seamstress mother and a father who works in a steel factory. His dream to be in the Army was fuelled by peers and films, especially *Uri*, with its "How is the Josh?" war cry.

He's not worried about making it to the 25%. "I will give my 100% to make it. If I don't, I am confident that the skills I learn here will hold me in good stead," he said.

(With inputs from Dinakar Peri)

'Cost of living crisis to be a talking point at G-20 meet on jobs'

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Kee Beom Kim

The cost of living crisis is likely to dominate discussions at the G-20's meeting on employment – Labour20 or L20 – which will be held in Jodhpur in the first week of February, says Kee Beom Kim, a macroeconomic and employment policies specialist at the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva.

Trade unions around the world have been undertaking protests, industrial action and collective bargaining to protect the purchasing power and working conditions of workers in the face of high inflation, Mr. Kim told *The Hindu* in an email interview, adding that the issue would likely continue to dominate in 2023.

Mr. Kim, who was recently in India for preparatory meetings before the L20, said issues such as growing debt sustainability concerns in developing countries leading to austerity programmes, and the measures being taken to protect jobs and incomes are also likely to be discussed.

There is much to learn from India on rising food prices and policy responses, he said. "Rather than undertaking ad-hoc or knee-jerk reactions, India has relied on its public systems of support for people's economic security and access to opportunities that it has been building for decades," he said.

(Full interview on bit.ly/KeeBeomKim)

Lives eroded by sea, islanders get by finding odd jobs at Gangasagar Mela

Shiv Sahay Singh
SAGAR

Eke out a living: Mir Abbas herding his cattle to the Gangasagar Mela where he would rent them to priests. DEBASISH BHADURI

Only a few kilometres from the beaches of the Sagar island where lakhs of pilgrims have descended for a holy dip on the festival of Makar Sankranti, Mir Abbas and Mir Zelal had gathered some 20 calves on a desolate beach. The men in their sixties are residents of the Dhablat Shibpur area of Sagar on the southernmost tip of the island facing the Bay of Bengal.

Both men said that their land and houses had been lost to sea erosion and they were now reduced to doing odd jobs in the fields or on fishing trawlers.

Gathering calves from nearby households has been one such work they take up during the Gangasagar Mela (fair).

"We will take the calves to the beach where pilgrims arrive. The calves will be given on rent to priests who will perform rituals involving these animals," Mr. Zelal said.

A calf is rented to priests at ₹1,500 for two to three days. The owners of the cattle, as well as Mr. Zelal and Mr. Abbas who fix the deal, get their share once the festival concludes and the animals are returned.

On the eve of Makar Sankranti, as dense smog engulfs the entire Gangasagar Mela, Vivek Pande, a priest from Bihar, is waiting patiently on a cot with a rented calf tied to it.

"I spent ₹3,000 on rent for the calf and a cot. I hope and pray to recover it," he said, explaining the ritual performed with the calf and why it is a big attraction for the pilgrims.

Climate refugees

Signs of erosion are not only visible on the Dhablat Shibpur beach but in several areas around the island, including the very beach where it's believed that the Ganga meets the sea in front of the Kapil Muni temple.

Sagar, the largest island in the Sundarbans archipelago, is not only eroding but has also become home for many people rendered homeless by sea erosion on other, smaller islands. Among them is Sheikh Kajhar Sikri, who migrated to Sagar from Ghoramara.

"Our parents had come to Ghoramara from Lohachara island [which disappeared in 2006]. Even after migrating from Ghoramara and coming to Sagar, we are battling storms every year," Mr. Sikri said.

There are several colonies on Sagar island where people rendered homeless on other islands have taken shelter, but parts of the biggest island are also fast eroding.

On the erosion, Tuhin Ghosh from the Department of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University said there were a number of natural barriers, including undulating sand dunes and natural vegetation, which have been done away for beautification works. "As erosion will eat out the land of the island, the people of Sagar will be more dependent on tourism, particularly the Gangasagar Mela," he said.

'The world really needs to think about a new kind of engagement between the scientific community, society'

I think in many ways we missed the narrative around COVID, says Ron Vale, Vice President of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute

INTERVIEW

Ron Vale

Jacob Koshy

Ron Vale, Vice-President of Howard Hughes Medical Institute, is a biologist who has uncovered fundamental insights into the functioning of molecular motors in cells. He spoke to *The Hindu*'s Jacob Koshy about drug discovery, the importance of basic-science research and the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic for scientific practice. Edited excerpts:

Your scientific career deals with movement in biological systems and how microscopic particles move about in the cell?

Indeed. So much of life is about movement. I was trained as a biochemist, cell biologist and neuroscientist and I became interested in movement in nerve cells, and trying to understand the molecular machinery responsible for that movement.

And this is how you discovered kinesin...

Yes. It is the essential engine in the cell. It has a chemical fuel (adenosine tryphosphate) that it converts into motion and generates force that can be used to move things. A similar molecular motor exists in muscles called myosin. Today we know that there are many genes for molecular motors. Humans have about 80 different motor genes and there are 45 different kinesin motors, because there are many different kinds of motor needs. Kinesin is found in liver cells, skin cells, nerve cells. Some kinesins are extremely specialised, for instance, dedicated to DNA replication.

There are a lot of steps to make science more accessible but it looks like being able to do cutting-edge science is becoming more expensive and it's harder than ever for many scientists to access funding, tenure...

A lot of people jump on the same problem and then it becomes a sort of arms race on who has more money, more people. But there are a lot of interesting problems in biology, and unexplored, and you have to be courageous enough to identify and find your own path. My sense of India, at least it was in the past and I hope it will be in the future too, is that there is a greater tolerance for people wanting to pursue their own independent line of research. That's important to nurture. It's important to remember that a field that seems like a backwater can suddenly become extremely cutting edge. Look at the COVID vaccines, particularly mRNA.

How has COVID-19 influenced the practice of science?

COVID has taught us that science should be global and the problems facing the world right now are not isolated to individual nations. There's a lot of science behind paywalls and a lot of times, scientists hold on to their data for very long. We need to improve communication and sharing. To be ready for a problem like COVID, we need a lot of basic research and tons of advance planning. I think in many ways we missed the narrative around COVID. What would we have done without science? Vaccines and tests were developed within a year-and-a-half. That's incredible. I don't think that story has been told very well. The story became about politics, mistrust. There was a vacuum and other narratives took over. I expected a revival of interest in science and basic research but I think we saw a 180-degree flip and greater mistrust in science. We really need to think about a new kind of engagement between the scientific community and society.

(Full interview on bit.ly/RonVale)

BRASÍLIA

Minister who served under Bolsonaro held over Brazil riot

AFP

Anderson Torres, left, a former Minister under defeated Brazilian ex-President Jair Bolsonaro, was arrested early on Saturday in connection with last week's invasion of government buildings. A Supreme Court judge announced on Friday that Mr. Bolsonaro will be included in an investigation into the origins of the protest. AFP

BANGKOK

Myanmar air strike kills five, including mother and toddler

AP

A mother and her toddler were among the five persons killed in a military air strike in Myanmar's east, Karen rebels and an aid group said on Saturday. Four junta fighter jets dropped eight bombs on villages in Hpapun district on Thursday afternoon, killing five persons. Another four were wounded. AFP

RAMALLAH

Israeli forces kill two men in West Bank: Palestinian Ministry

REUTERS

Two Palestinians were killed on Saturday during an Israeli Army raid in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The two young men were shot dead by Israeli forces "during an assault on the village of Jaba, south of Jenin" in the north of the West Bank, the Ministry said. AFP

HONG KONG

Hong Kong DJ, who broadcast for six decades, dies aged 98 years

AP

Ray Cordeiro, who interviewed music acts including the Beatles during a six-decade career on Hong Kong radio that earned him the title of the world's longest-working disc jockey, has died. He was 98. Cordeiro died on Friday, according to Radio Television Hong Kong, where he worked until 2021. It gave no cause of death. AP

China and Bhutan agree to 'push forward' border talks

Both sides agree to increase the frequency of the expert group meetings and to keep contact through diplomatic channels on holding the 25th Round of boundary talks at the earliest

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

Officials from China and Bhutan on Friday, January 13, 2023 agreed to "push forward" a three-step roadmap as an expert group meeting held boundary talks in the southwestern Chinese city of Kunming.

A joint release said the two sides "had an in-depth exchange of views on implementing the MOU on the Three-Step Roadmap for Expediting the China-Bhutan Boundary Negotiations, and reached positive consensus."

The Bhutan delegation, led by Dasho Letho Tobdhen Tangbi, Secretary of the International Boundaries of Bhutan, met with a Chinese delegation led by Hong Liang, Director General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, from Tuesday to Friday.

Both sides "agreed to simultaneously push forward the implementation of all the steps of the Three-Step Roadmap" as well as "increase the frequency of the expert group meetings and to keep contact through diplomatic channels on holding the 25th Round of China-Bhutan Boundary talks as soon as possible", the release said. Following the talks, both sides held a handover ceremony for Chinese donations of supplies, it added.

Equal stake: Doklam is one of the areas contested by both China and Bhutan. FILE PHOTO

Bhutan and China in October 2021 signed an agreement on a "Three-Step Roadmap For Expediting the Bhutan-China Boundary Negotiations". Bhutan's Foreign Ministry said then the MoU on the Three-Step Roadmap would "provide a fresh impetus to the Boundary Talks."

So far, 11 expert group meetings and 24 rounds of talks have been held since the process began in 1984.

Negotiations in the 24 rounds have focused broadly on two areas of dispute – Doklam and areas along the western borders of Bhutan and near the India-China-Bhutan trijunction, and the Jakarlung and Pasamlung valleys along Bhutan's northern borders.

New dimension

However, China has recently appeared to broaden the scope of the dispute by also bringing in areas along Bhutan's eastern borders in Sakteng wildlife sanctuary, which borders India's State of Arunachal Pradesh. The Chinese Foreign Ministry subsequently referred to disputes in "western, middle and eastern" sections.

Some observers viewed that move as a pressure tactic to push Bhutan to accept China's earlier reported offer of a swap of Doklam in the west, which Beijing views strategically, in exchange for Bhutan to retain its northern territories.

Proximity to India

The western areas, measuring 269 sq. km, are a particularly sensitive bone of contention given the proximity to India, especially after the 2017 standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in Doklam. Since the stand-off, China has stepped up its military presence in the disputed plateau.

The Jakarlung and Pasamlung valleys along Bhutan's northern borders with Tibet measure 495 sq. km.

Beijing has recently launched an infrastructure push in Tibet to build what it calls "xiaokang" (moderately prosperous) frontier villages, to establish civilian settlements in areas, including disputed ones, along the Tibet-Bhutan border.

China reports close to 60,000 COVID deaths since December

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

China's National Health Commission on Saturday said the country had reported close to 60,000 deaths from COVID-19 since the ending of the stringent "zero-COVID" policy on December 7, 2022.

In a 36-day period from December 8, 2022 to January 12, 2023, there were a total of 59,938 deaths, Jiao Yahui, director of the National Health Commission's medical affairs department, said on Saturday.

This included 5,503 deaths from respiratory failure directly caused by COVID-19, and 54,435 deaths of those who had underlying conditions and were then infected.

According to the NHC, the average age was 80 while 90% were aged 65 and above.

No respite: There is now concern of a spread of COVID-19 cases to rural areas as people return ahead of the Chinese New Year. REUTERS

Numbers of those unvaccinated were not immediately available. As of end-November, shortly before China's abrupt change in policy and almost overnight lifting of restrictions and ending of lockdowns, only 40% of the 30 million above-80 population had completed the full three doses of Chinese vaccines required, according to data from Hong Kong, to prevent hospitalisation and death.

Since early December, cases in Chinese cities have spread rapidly in what is essentially the country's first major national wave since the start of the pandemic in early 2020, with zero-COVID insulating the country in 2020 and 2021 but unable to deal with more transmissable Omicron variants last year.

While most cases have been reported as mild, the unvaccinated elderly population has been vulnerable amid the rapid spread of cases, leading to huge pressure in recent weeks on the medical system. Crematoria in many Chinese cities have reported record waiting periods, and at the start of the new year, some families in Beijing were told of a 10-day wait for their loved ones to be transferred from morgues for cremation.

There is now concern of a spread of cases to rural areas as many return home ahead of the January 22 Chinese New Year holiday.

Five more classified pages found at Biden home

Reuters
WILMINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden's counsel said on Saturday that five additional pages with classified markings were discovered at the President's Wilmington, Delaware, home on Thursday, and they were immediately handed over to Justice Department officials.

Mr. Biden's special counsel, Richard Sauber, said he traveled to Mr. Biden's Wilmington home on Thursday to facilitate the handover to the Justice Department of a document with classified markings that was found there earlier.

"While I was transferring it to the DOJ officials who accompanied me, five additional pages with classification markings were discovered among the material with it, for a total of six pages. The DOJ officials with me immediately took possession of them," Mr. Sauber said in a statement.

Mr. Biden's legal team acknowledged this week it had found classified documents relating to his time as Vice President in the Obama administration at his Delaware home, including some in his garage.

British-Iranian dual national hanged by Tehran for 'spying'

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

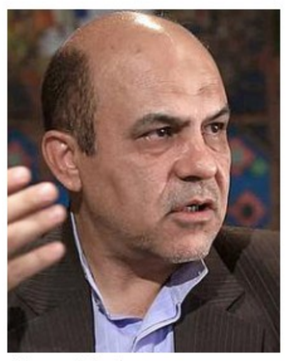
Iran said on Saturday it had executed a British-Iranian dual national sentenced to death for spying for the United Kingdom, drawing strong condemnation from Western governments and international rights groups.

Alireza Akbari, 61, was hanged after being convicted of "corruption on earth and harming the country's internal and external security by passing on intelligence", the judiciary's Mizan Online website said. It did not say when or where the execution took place.

Mizan said Akbari, who had been arrested more than two years ago, had been a spy for Britain's MI6 secret intelligence agency and had received around $2 million for his services.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said he was "appalled" by the execution.

"This was a callous and cowardly act, carried out by a barbaric regime with no respect for the human rights of their own people," Mr. Sunak tweeted, adding his thoughts were with "Alireza's friends and family".



Alireza Akbari

U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly warned on Twitter that the execution would not go unchallenged, before announcing sanctions on Iran's prosecutor general to underline Britain's "disgust".

Iran summoned the British ambassador to protest what it described as "unconventional interventions", after Britain said it would summon Tehran's envoy.

France's Foreign Ministry condemned the execution "in the strongest terms", while President Emmanuel Macron denounced a "heinous and barbaric act".

The U.S. said it was "horrified" by Akbari's hanging, "which was politically motivated and unjust".

Three dead after militants attack Pak. police station

Press Trust of India
PESHAWAR

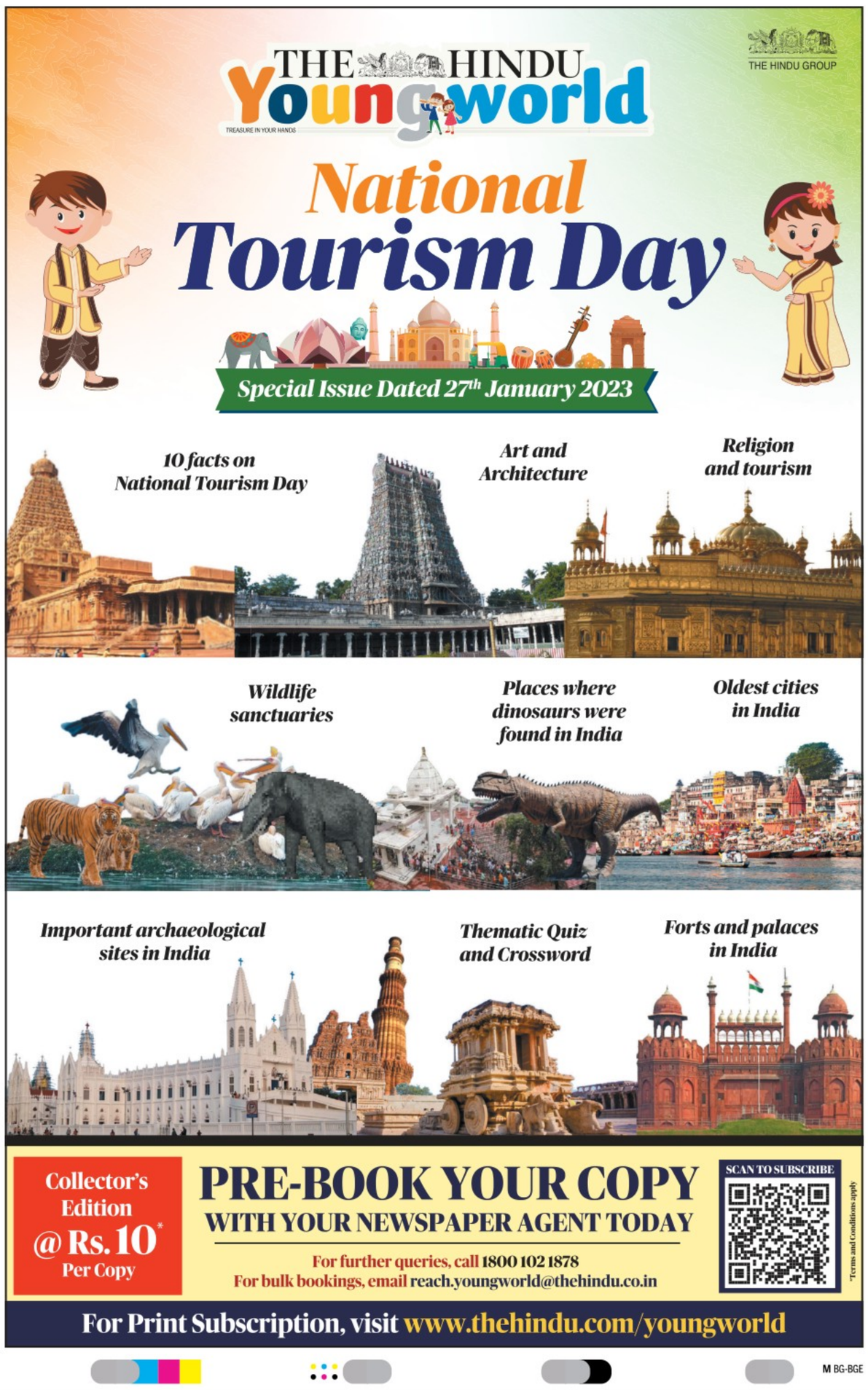
A group of heavily-armed militants from the Pakistani Taliban attacked a police station in the suburbs of the restive northwestern city of Peshawar on Saturday and killed three policemen, including a senior police officer, authorities said.

Some six to seven militants attacked Sarband police station bordering Khyber tribal district with hand grenades, automatic weapons, and sniper shots and three policemen were killed in the cross-firing, SSP Operation Peshawar Kashif Abbasi said.

The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terror group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The three slain policemen include the Deputy Superintendent of Police Sardar Hussain and two constables.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police chief Moazzam Jah Ansari said the policemen successfully foiled the terrorist attack on the station and fought valiantly.The DSP was injured in the firing while entering the building. He succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.



Reconstructing past deep-water circulations of Indian Ocean

Sunderarajan P.

Global overturning circulation – the equatorward transport of cold, deep waters and the poleward transport of warm, near-surface waters – controls ocean heat distribution and atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, thus playing a critical role in global climate.

It is thought that tectonic changes might have led to the formation of two separate water bodies – northern component water in the North Atlantic and Antarctic Bottom Water (AABW) in the Southern Ocean.

But these formulations have remained untested due to lack of adequate data. Some records that are available are from near the deep-water formation regions mostly from the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans. Hence, they might not necessarily reflect the impact and change in deep water circulation.

Few studies have been carried out in the Indian Ocean to reconstruct past deep water circulations based on iron-manganese crust records and authigenic neodymium isotope composition of sediment cores. But iron-manganese crusts are situated at deeper depths and are bathed only by AABW, making it suitable only for the reconstruction of the history of AABW, and authigenic neodymium isotope records are available only from the Bay of Bengal region.

A new study (*Nature Communications*) by a team of researchers from the Goa-based National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research and the School of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences in Goa University has now sorted out the issue.

The scientists have generated an authigenic neodymium isotope record from the Arabian Sea and reconstructed the DWC record of the Indian Ocean for the period from 11.3 million years ago (Miocene era) to 1.98 million years ago (Pleistocene era).

"The record shows a clear shift from the Pacific water dominated deep circulation system before about nine million years ago, to the onset of a modern-like deep water circulation system in the Indian Ocean comprising of Antarctic bottom water and northern component water during the Miocene-Pliocene transition (about six million years ago). Our finding suggests a widespread impact of the late Miocene Central American Seaway closure on the evolution of ocean deep water circulation and validates the so-called Panama Closure Hypothesis," says Dr. Waliur Rahaman from the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) and one of the corresponding authors.

(*Sunderarajan P. is a freelance science journalist based in New Delhi*)

Joshimath: a victim of the Himalayan development model

Despite being warned that Joshimath township is situated on debris of earlier landslides and would slip someday, development continued at a rapid pace

R.K. Chadha

It is now clear that all warnings in the Mishra Committee report almost 50 years back went unheeded in the race to develop Joshimath by successive governments since 2001. It was clearly pointed out that Joshimath township is situated on debris of earlier landslides and would slip someday.

But development continued at a rapid pace with heavy construction activities such as initiating small hydro power projects at Tapovan and Rishi Ganga, tunnelling, road widening and mushrooming of buildings with scant regard to safety to accommodate increased tourist inflow, and disappearance of the green cover in the region. All elements of a disaster were primed and only a trigger was needed to initiate the crisis.

Erosion of slopes

That trigger was provided by nature in February 2021 when a catastrophic flow of rock and glacier ice mass descended into Rishiganga and Dhauliganga valleys and flowed into Alaknanda river at Joshimath. This extraordinary mass flow of mobile debris that contained boulders greater than 20 metres, scoured the valley walls up to 200 metres. On the way, the half-finished Tapovan dam was washed away and the tunnel was inundated with water. The strong and violent flow sufficiently eroded the base of hill slopes in Alaknanda valley in Joshimath.

A tragedy in the making

Small hydro power projects at Tapovan and Rishi Ganga, tunnelling, road widening and construction activities have continued unabated in Joshimath

- Subsidence in Joshimath was triggered by the February 2021 flow of rock and glacier ice mass that descended into Rishiganga and Dhauliganga valleys and flowed into Alaknanda river
- The base of hill slopes in Alaknanda valley in Joshimath has been sufficiently eroded by the strong and violent flow of debris water
- Based on satellite data, scientists say Joshimath and the surrounding areas have been sinking at a rate of 6.5 cm per year
- Construction activities could have set in motion or accelerated the removal or rearrangement of subsurface materials, underground erosion, lateral flow, and compaction

Several buildings in Joshimath have weakened and developed cracks due to subsidence.

- Substantial discharge of water in December 2009 from a punctured underground aquifer could have played a role in destabilising Joshimath
- Several geological evidences around Joshimath suggest a reduction in the shear strength of the debris (on which Joshimath stands) leading to subsidence

In a recent study, scientists from the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun, observed that Joshimath and the surrounding areas have been sinking at a rate of 6.5 cm (2.5 inches) per year based on satellite data from July 2020 to March 2022. Their findings correlate well with the base erosion of Joshimath slope along the Alaknanda river.

The impact of the event was such that at Kanpur, at a distance of about 900 km from Joshimath, an unprecedented spike (80 times higher) in suspended sediment (turbidity) was observed in a canal that draws directly from the Ganga, making this event the most likely candidate for triggering the present subsidence in Joshimath.

Land subsidence along slopes happens due to displacement of underground material under the influence of two important factors of gravity and water action. It is a geohazard in the mountainous region controlled by a variety of subsurface displacement mechanisms that are not very well understood.

Subsidence zone

Since the displacement mechanisms happen below the ground, their progression to the point of surface deformation can only be speculated. In nature, these processes evolve over a long period of time, and some of the significant evidence may lie outside the area of the subsidence zone.

In the case of Joshimath, evidences strongly suggest that certain subsurface processes such as the removal or rearrangement of subsurface materials to produce void space or significant volume reduction-solution, underground erosion, lateral flow, and compaction could have been set in motion or accelerated by construction activities. One such incident could be the reported puncturing of an underground aquifer during a tunnel boring close to Auli, discharging substantial amounts of water in December 2009. But a long-term scientific investigation to comprehend the complex processes is needed to prove the causality of this incident to subsidence.

In addition, there are several other geological evidences observed in the field around Joshimath that suggest a reduction in the shear strength of the debris leading to subsidence. These evidences are weathered and highly jointed strata, freeze-thaw cycles runoff from mountain top along vertical joints or cracks during rains, perched water tables and seeps, groundwater manipulation, and irrigation.

The accelerated push

The Joshimath tragic event raises pertinent questions on the accelerated push by the government on clean energy and national security. While the intentions are well-meaning, risks associated with rapid expansion of hydropower and infrastructure developments in the fragile environment of Himalayas, need to be understood.

The stress should be on environment and conservation for a sustainable development in the Himalayas without ignoring human sufferings and emerging socioeconomic impacts the developments cause.

The Joshimath tragedy is just unfolding and has already caused great misery to local people in terms of displacement and economic losses. The government should speed up the process of resettlement as the consequences arising out of an earthquake at this time or heavy rains predicted in the region could be catastrophic.

(*R.K. Chadha was Chief Scientist at CSIR-NGRI, Hyderabad, and currently Raja Ramanna Fellow at the same institute*)

Is handedness inherited?

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

We humans walk with two legs (called 'bipedal') and use two hands. The evolution of bipedalism began in our ancestors, the primates, about 4 million years ago. The primates not only gave us our blood groups, but our two feet and two hands as well. Primates exhibit characteristics that distinguish them from less evolved mammals. These include adaptations to live in trees (as monkeys do), big brains, heightened sense of vision, opposable thumbs to grasp the four fingers in each hand, and more flexibility in shoulder movements.

Four hands to two

Dr. Tetsuro Matsuzawa of the Kyoto University, Japan, writes that the shared ancestor of primates moved into tree tops and developed four hands from the four legs possessed by the terrestrial ancestor. This was an adaptation to arboreal life; enabling the efficient grasping of branches and tree-trunks. Subsequently, early human ancestors left the trees to start walking long distances across the land, bipedally. Thus, we created two feet from four hands during the course of evolution from our primate ancestors.

The anthropologist Carol Ward of the University of Missouri, U.S. points out that the way we humans get around the world is different from any other animal on earth. We move around on the ground, upright on two feet, but in a unique way: with one foot after the other, holding our body fully upright in a characteristic series of motions. So, it's a big deal to figure out how and why we walk the way we do, and how our lineage really diverged so much from ape-like creatures.

The human brain is about three times as big as the brain of our closest living relative, the chimpanzee. Moreover, a part of our brain, called the cerebral cortex – which plays a key role in memory, attention, awareness and thought – contains twice as many cells as the same region in chimpanzees. We are, thus, smarter than apes.

Hereditary: A person is more likely to be a left-hander if one's mother is also left-handed. AFP

In your genes?

Now comes the question of handedness. About 10% of us are lefties. How did this come about? This is still a hotly debated issue. There may be genetic influences: you are more likely to be a left-hander if your mother is left-handed than if your father is. Your chances rise to 50% when both your parents are left-handed. A group from the Sargodha University in Pakistan, writing in *The Journal of the Indian Academy of Applied Psychology* (JIAAP), reported that left-handed participants were more intelligent than right-handed participants.

Dr. Chris McManus of the University of London, U.K. has, in 2019, published an authoritative article, 'Half a century of handedness research: myths, truths, fictions, facts; backwards, but mostly forwards', in the journal, *Brain and Neuroscience Advances*. He hopes that with new advances in gene sequencing and brain scanning techniques we will know more about human handedness in the coming years.

Advantage lefties

In sports, as we can imagine, lefties rule over righties. In international cricket, roughly 20% of the top-order batsmen are left-handers. So are 23% of Open-era Wimbledon champions. Gautam Gambhir and Sourav Ganguly in cricket, Rafael Nadal and Martina Navratilova in lawn tennis, and Lionel Messi in football. Mahatma Gandhi was ambidextrous, and so was Isaac Newton. You may add more names to these lists.

SNAPSHOTS

Ancient DNA traces migration history of giant tortoises

Before the arrival of humans, islands in the Western Indian Ocean were home to giant tortoises that dominated their ecosystems. By examining ancient DNA, researchers have estimated how these animals migrated out of Africa to colonise Madagascar and many islands that are now lost to the seas. As per radiocarbon dating, tortoise specimens existed between 1,262 and 1,069 years before the present; the species likely originated from a dispersal from Africa in the late Eocene or Oligocene epoch.

Rockfishes provide insights into genetic basis of longevity

The longevity of rockfishes, some of which can live more than 100 years, comes from genes tied to insulin signalling and flavonoid metabolism. The study also evaluated the influence of equivalent genes on human aging. Multiple shifts in rockfish longevity have occurred independently, and in a short evolutionary time frame. The longevity of rockfishes ranges from 11 to over 205 years. Through genome sequencing, researchers examined 23 rockfish species with average lifespans ranging from 22 to 108 years.

Tonga eruption similar to Mount St. Helens eruption

The forces generated by the January 2022 Tonga eruption created globally observable atmosphere waves, according to a new study using remote seismic data. The eruption of the volcano was the largest volcanic explosion in more than 30 years. Researchers used remote seismic data recording ground motions produced by the eruption and indirectly by the resulting atmospheric waves to estimate the overall force the eruption imposed onto the Earth as it vented over time.

Question Corner

Galaxies

Have galaxies existed in the universe before the known ones?

Astronomers from the University of Missouri have used data from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) Early Release Observations and discovered 87 galaxies that could be the earliest known galaxies in the universe.

The finding moves the astronomers one step closer to finding out when galaxies first appeared in the universe – about 200-400 million years after the Big Bang.

"Finding such a large number of galaxies in the early parts of the universe suggests that we might need to revise our previous understanding of galaxy formation," Haojing Yan from the University of Missouri said in a release. "Our finding gives us the first indication that a lot of galaxies could have been formed in the universe much earlier than previously thought."

The astronomers searched for potential galaxies at "very high redshifts." The concept of redshifts allows us to measure how far away distant objects are in the universe by looking at how the colours change in the waves of light that they emit.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Where do Indian cities stand on toxic air?

What are the limits for particulate matter? Has the National Clean Air Campaign made a difference?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

Four years since the Centre launched the National Clean Air Campaign (NCAP), analysts found that progress has been slow and pollution only incrementally reduced in most cities.

What is the NCAP?

Following years of evidence that many Indian cities were among the most polluted in the world, the government launched the NCAP that committed funds as well as set targets for 131 of India's most polluted cities on January 10, 2019. The 131 cities are called non-attainment cities, as they did not meet the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for the period of 2011-15 under the National Air Quality Monitoring Program (NAMP).

What are the target levels?

The country's current, annual average prescribed limits for the two main classes of particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) are 40 micrograms/per cubic metre (ug/m3) and 60 micrograms/per cubic metre. The NCAP initially set a target of reducing key air pollutants PM10 and PM2.5 by 20-30% in 2024, taking the pollution levels in 2017 as the base year to improve upon. In September 2022, however, the Centre moved the goalposts and set a new target of a 40% reduction in particulate matter concentration, but by 2026. To meet these targets, approximately ₹6,897.06 crore has been disbursed to the cities by the government. For administering funds, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which coordinates the programme, looks at a city's PM10 levels – the relatively larger, coarser particles. However, PM2.5, the smaller, more dangerous particles, aren't monitored as robustly in all cities, mostly due to the lack of equipment. Cities were required to quantify improvement starting from 2020-21, which requires 15% and more reduction in the annual average PM10 concentration and a concurrent increase in "good air" days to at least 200. Anything fewer will be considered 'low' and the funding, provided by the Centre via the Environment Ministry, consequently reduced.

> An analysis of the four-year performance of the NCAP by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air found that only 38 of the 131 cities met pollution reduction targets for FY21-22

How effective has the NCAP been?

An analysis of the four-year performance of the NCAP by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), found that only 38 of the 131 cities that were given annual pollution reduction targets managed to meet the targets for FY21-22. The CREA noted that 37 cities have completed the source apportionment studies (which list out and quantify the major sources of pollution in a city). However, most of these reports weren't available in the public domain and no city action plan had been updated with information from these studies, as they were supposed to be under the NCAP programme. The CREA estimates that India will need to install more than 300 manual air quality monitoring stations per year to reach the NCAP goal of 1,500 monitoring stations by 2024. Only 180 stations have been installed over the last four years.

Has NCAP managed to reduce pollution?

The NCAP Tracker, a joint project by two organisations active in air pollution-policy, Climate Trends and Respirer Living Sciences, have been monitoring progress in achieving the 2024 clean air targets set under the NCAP. Among these cities, the national capital of Delhi ranked the most polluted in 2022, with an annual average PM2.5 concentration of 99.71 ug/m3. But Delhi's PM2.5 levels have improved by over 7% compared to 2019. Most cities in the top 10 most polluted list of 2022 were from the Indo-Gangetic Plain. All three of Bihar's non-attainment cities, Patna, Muzaffarpur and Gaya, now feature in the top 10 most polluted cities on the basis of PM2.5 levels. Nine of the 10 cities, which were the most polluted in 2019, have reduced their PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations though the levels in these cities remain much higher than CPCB's annual average safe limits for PM2.5 and PM10. In September 2022, the Centre for Science and Environment reported that based on PM2.5 levels, only 14 of 43 (NCAP) cities registered a 10% or more reduction in their PM2.5 level between 2019 and 2021. Only 43 cities were considered as only they had adequate data to scientifically establish a long-term trend. On the other hand, out of 46 non-NCAP cities with adequate data, 21 recorded significant improvement in their annual PM2.5 value with 5% or more decline between 2019 and 2021. There were 16 NCAP cities and 15 non-NCAP cities that registered a significant increase in their annual PM2.5 levels – with near identical numbers. This suggested that non-NCAP and NCAP cities were as likely to be polluted, with the NCAP regime having limited effectiveness.

What does Centre want in Bhopal gas case?

Why has the government demanded more compensation in its curative petition? How has Union Carbide, now owned by Dow Chemicals, responded? What is the Supreme Court's stand?

Krishnadas Rajagopal

The story so far:

The Union of India calls the Bhopal gas leak tragedy the world's largest industrial disaster. On the intervening night of December 2-3, 1984, methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas escaped from the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, leading to hundreds of deaths. Thirty-nine years after the incident, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court led by Justice S. K. Kaul has reserved its judgment on a curative petition filed by the Centre in November 2010 to enhance the $470 million (about ₹725 crore at the then exchange rate) compensation fixed in a 1989 settlement reached with Union Carbide Corporation (UCC), now a wholly owned subsidiary of Dow Chemicals, with the imprimatur of the apex court. The government has sought an additional amount of ₹675.96 crore in compensation from the pesticide company. The UCC has refused to pay a "farthing more". The court made it clear that it would not "try" the curative petition like an ordinary suit and reopen the settlement.

> The government wants Union Carbide to top up the compensation amount

Lingering tragedy: Protesters ask authorities to present accurate figures of those impacted by the Union Carbide disaster on December 3, 2022. AFP

What is the basis for the plea for more compensation?

The basis of the $470 million settlement reached on May 4, 1989 was that there were only around 3,000 death cases in the gas leak incident. The government's curative petition in 2010 said the actual figure is 5,295 deaths. However, a fortnightly report submitted by the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, and which is a part of the case records in the Supreme Court, shows the number of deaths have increased to 5,479 as on December 15, 2022. The Commissioner's report further said the number of cases of cancer and renal failure were 16,739 and 6,711, respectively. Likewise, the curative petition said the estimated numbers for temporary disability and minor injury cases were 20,000 and 50,000, respectively, in 1989. But they are actually 35,455 and 5,27,894. The government's chart in the apex court shows that the total number of cases of deaths, disability, injuries, loss of property and livestock have increased to 5,74,376 from the 2,05,000 "assumed" on May 4, 1989.

What do the victims say?

The Bhopal Gas Peedith Mahila Udyog Sanghathan, a body formed by the gas leak victims, and Bhopal Gas Peedith Sangharsh Sahayog Samiti, composed of responsible citizens, both represented by senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, have told the court that the Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre has medical records of over 4.5 lakh gas victims spanning 22 years.

On an average, every day about 2,000 gas victims undergo medical treatment at the Centre. Another 4,000 victims undergo treatment at the six hospitals and 19 clinics run by the Gas Relief Department of the Madhya Pradesh government.

These victims cannot be dismissed as merely suffering from "minor" injuries nearly 40 years after the tragedy.

Is more relief possible in a curative petition?

The firm stand voiced by the Constitution Bench against re-opening the 1989 settlement between the government and UCC finds its roots in the limits placed on curative jurisdiction. The curative plea is a remedy evolved by the Supreme Court in the 2002 judgment in the *Ashok Hurra versus Rupa Hurra* case. It is the rarest-of-rare remedies when "the duty to do justice shall have to prevail over the policy of certainty of a judgment and declining justice would be oppressive to judicial conscience and perpetuate an irremediable injustice".

A party can take only two limited grounds in a curative petition – one, that he or she was not given an opportunity to be heard, and two, that the judges were biased. A curative petition, which follows the dismissal of the review petition, is the last legal avenue open in the Supreme Court. The government had not filed a review petition, but directly came for curative relief in 2010.

What are the rival contentions?

Attorney General of India R. Venkataramani has urged the court to look beyond the conservative principles of law, that is, look beyond the restrictions of the curative jurisdiction, to deliver complete justice to the victims by directing the UCC to pay up. The top law officer has argued that the government did not want to "re-open" the 1989 settlement but "add" to it. The government said the Parliament had placed it in the role of the protector of the victims by enacting the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act of 1985. It has an obligation to protect the victims' interests "effectively and equitably".

The UCC, through senior advocate Harish Salve, countered that the settlement was arrived at on the basis of a "consent decree" sourced from a suit. If the decree was set aside, the suit proceedings should be restored. The liability of UCC for the tragedy was never established. There was no "re-opener clause" in the settlement. More and more liability cannot be piled on to his client as and when fresh data was revealed. Fresh documents and material cannot be inserted into the court record in the limited jurisdiction of a curative petition.

What did the court observe during the hearing?

At the heart of the legal dispute is a paragraph from the October 3, 1991 order of the Supreme Court. The paragraph discussed the "unlikely event" of the 1989 settlement funds being found insufficient to satisfy the claims of all the victims.

While stressing that the victims should not be left to "fend for themselves", the court, in 1991, had said the "reasonable way to protect the interests of the victims is to hold that the Union of India, as a welfare state and in the circumstances under which the settlement was made, should not be found wanting in making good the deficiency, if any".

The government has interpreted these words by saying that it has done its duty by coming to the court with a plea to direct the UCC to top-up the compensation amount. The court, in turn, said if the government, as a welfare state, felt the victims were entitled to more, it should pay them.

"It is not that we are not sensitive. Nobody doubts the enormity of the tragedy. People suffered... but the court cannot act like a knight in shining armour granting panacea for all. We are bound by the constraints of law," the Constitution Bench said, reserving the case for verdict.

What led to the Governor-CM rift in T.N.?

Why did R.N. Ravi walk out of the Tamil Nadu Assembly? What is the role of the Governor and State Government, according to the Constitution? Has such an event happened before in the Tamil Nadu State Assembly? Why is the Governor at loggerheads with the ruling government?

T. Ramakrishnan

The story so far:

The Tamil Nadu Assembly witnessed unprecedented scenes on January 9 when Governor R. N. Ravi, while delivering his customary address to the House, omitted certain paragraphs from the text prepared by the State government. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin later moved a motion to take on record only the transcript distributed to legislators, prompting the Governor to walk out of the House.

What has been the reaction?

Mr. Ravi did not wait for Mr. Stalin to finish reading the resolution's text to walk out. Since then, there has not been any respite from the political discourse on the relationship between the Governor and the Chief Minister. While the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), its allies and a section of jurists, have been critical of Mr. Ravi's acts of omitting certain paragraphs from the text prepared by the State government and subsequent walk-out, the AIADMK and the BJP have defended the Governor saying the events in the House constituted a "personal attack" on him. Both sides claim there has been a violation of Assembly traditions. On January 12, a delegation of representatives of the Tamil Nadu government, including Law Minister S. Regupathy called on President Droupadi Murmu in Delhi and handed over Mr. Stalin's letter to her, which sought her intervention to ensure that the Governor acts as per Article 163 (1) [Council of Ministers to aid and advise Governor] of the Constitution. The same day, in Chennai, Mr. Ravi hosted an event at Raj Bhavan to mark the Pongal festival, which was boycotted by the ruling DMK and its allies.

> The DMK government has asked the President's intervention to ensure that the Governor acts as per Article 163 (1)

Domestic dispute: A day after Governor R.N. Ravi walked out of the State Assembly, posters that read 'GetOutRavi' pasted on a wall on January 10. PTI

What led to the face-off?

In four months of Mr. Ravi assuming charge in September 2021, DMK parliamentary party leader T.R. Baalu demanded his resignation for not forwarding to the then President Ram Nath Kovind a Bill, adopted by the Assembly, seeking to exempt government seats in undergraduate medical and dental courses from the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET). Even though the legislation is now awaiting Presidential assent, there are many other Bills which are awaiting the Governor's nod. The Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill, also on the waiting list, had been cleared in the form of an ordinance by Mr. Ravi on October 1, 2022. Days before the Assembly began its proceedings, the Governor kicked up a debate by expressing his preference for the term 'Tamizhagam' to refer to the State, instead of Tamil Nadu.

What did Mr. Ravi leave out in his address?

He left out the references to national and regional stalwarts, and the phrase "Dravidian model of governance", which gained currency after the DMK returned to power in May 2021. He skipped describing Tamil Nadu as "a haven of peace" in the context of the law and order situation; its ability to attract "numerous foreign investments" and "becoming a forerunner in all sectors." According to Mr. Stalin, the text of the address was approved by him before its distribution to the members.

How many times has Tamil Nadu faced such a situation?

This was the first time that a Governor chose to skip certain paragraphs. Even when relations between Governor M. Channa Reddy and Chief Minister Jayalalithaa during 1993-95 were at the lowest ebb, nothing of this sort happened. In neighbouring Kerala, however, at least three Governors had skipped sections during their Assembly address since January 1969.

Though a walkout by a Governor is a first for Tamil Nadu, in February 1965, the then West Bengal Governor, Padmaja Naidu, walked out of the Assembly without addressing the House, annoyed by the Opposition's interruptions.

What are the larger constitutional issues being discussed?

The issue of deviation from the prepared text was immediately raised. Tamil Nadu Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu, in his interaction with the media after the Governor's walkout, touched upon the matter of Presidents having to read out what the Centre had prepared.

On February 8, 1960, the then President Rajendra Prasad made certain corrections in the printed copies of the Hindi and English versions of the address which were received at the Lok Sabha Secretariat, an hour before the commencement of his address to the two Houses of Parliament, according to *Practice and Procedure of Parliament* by M.N. Kaul and S.L. Shakdher.

In his *My Presidential Years*, former President, R. Venkataraman, who held the post between 1987 and 1992, mentioned that when he delivered his address to both the Houses of Parliament on February 22, 1988, he changed the expression "My government" to "The government" as the original practice was a part of the British legacy. Else, he pointed out that "since the entire address is a statement of government policies and programmes, I left it to the government to present it in the form and manner it preferred."

One of his successors, Pranab Mukherjee, in his *The Presidential Years 2012-2017*, reinforced Venkataraman's position on the substance that went into the address and went on to state that he had "followed the rule book and conventions in both letter and spirit."

He did not shy away from making suggestions at the appropriate fora, but that there was "not a single occasion in the five years of my tenure as president that my addresses created a controversy or embarrassed the government of the day."

Diplomacy with Chinese characteristics

Wolf warrior diplomacy

While Zhao Lijian, China's most famous 'wolf warrior', is sidelined, the hard edge to Chinese diplomacy is here to stay

Ananth Krishnan

The posting of China's most well-known "wolf warrior" spokesperson earlier this week to a less high-profile Boundary and Ocean Affairs Department has turned the spotlight on China's diplomacy, as well as ignited a debate on whether it is undergoing a recalibration.

The original 'wolf warrior', Zhao Lijian, who worked for the Foreign Ministry in Beijing as a spokesperson, garnered a fan-following in China – with more than 7.7 million followers on China's Twitter-equivalent, Sina Weibo – and a more controversial reputation abroad through his active presence on Twitter, a website banned in China.

Mr. Zhao famously started a conspiracy theory that COVID-19 began because the U.S. military had brought the virus to Wuhan. He was also slammed by then Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison for tweeting a mock-up image of an Australian soldier with a knife about to slit the throat of an Afghan child. Mr. Zhao was unapologetic about his often undiplomatic approach to diplomacy. But rather than receive a promotion to a high-profile posting for his endeavours, he was moved sideways – he remains of Deputy Director General rank in the Ministry, but has now essentially been sidelined, away from the limelight of the spokesperson's podium. He wasn't given, as his two predecessors were, an overseas posting with a higher profile.

Now, his reassignment, three months into Mr. Xi's third term, has expectedly triggered debate about the immediate future of China's diplomacy and raised the question whether the 'wolf warrior' days are over.

That conclusion may be premature. Although Mr. Zhao became for some the face of 'wolf warrior diplomacy' in the social media era – the name derives from a popular eponymous Chinese action film in 2015 that became emblematic of the nationalistic zeitgeist of the early Xi Jinping years – the hard edge to Chinese diplomacy, in fact, long predated Mr. Zhao's tweets. And regardless of tweaks in Chinese messaging that may follow his ouster from the Ministry's briefing room, signs are it is here to stay.

'Military in civilian clothing'

The idea of China's diplomats needing to be "warriors" long predates Mr. Zhao, and goes back to People's Republic of China's founding and to former Premier, and first Foreign Minister, Zhou Enlai. As Peter Martin, author of *China's Civilian Army: The Making of Wolf Warrior Diplomacy*, put it to *The Hindu*, Zhou was faced with a challenge at the PRC's founding in 1949 as he tried to fashion a diplomatic corps.

"This new Communist state basically had no diplomats," Mr. Martin said. "It had kicked out all of the KMT Nationalist diplomats who had stayed behind. It had a small band of officials who had been with China's first Foreign Minister, Zhou Enlai, for a couple of decades. But apart from that, its diplomatic corps was made up of group of ragtag peasant revolutionaries and fresh university graduates. And it had this huge need to go out and communicate with the world. China didn't have any friends or allies outside of the Soviet bloc. But it also was very fearful about regime survival, and very, very paranoid about foreign influence."

Zhou, who essentially became the founding father of Chinese diplomacy, came up with this approach, Mr. Martin said, "where he said, 'Well, okay, we don't know how to be diplomats, but we know how to fight battles. And so why don't you model yourself on the People's Liberation Army?' So he said, be like the People's Liberation Army in civilian clothing. And what that means is unfailing loyalty to the Communist Party, strict adherence to discipline, an ability to display a fighting spirit when necessary." What Mr. Martin calls a "militaristic culture" has been ingrained in Chinese diplomacy, even if, as Zhou himself embodied, it mastered the ability to hide its fist when needed behind velvet gloves. If Chinese diplomacy evolved to suit the needs of the Deng Xiaoping "reform and opening up" years and China's integration with the global economy, one constant has been the same emphasis about ensuring regime survival. Foreign observers, who sometimes puzzle over muscle-flexing Chinese actions that to outside eyes appear to serve little purpose besides alienating countries, often discount the overriding importance of domestic politics as a driver of Beijing's actions.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Chinese diplomats, like the soldiers of the PLA, serve a Party first, and then the State. Keeping the Party surviving is their number one goal. Diplomacy follows a distant second. And when domestic requirements of regime survival rub up against what would seem to be diplomatic needs, there will be only one winner.

The Great Rejuvenation

At the time of Mr. Xi taking over in 2012, Chinese experts were already intensely debating whether it was time for a new approach to diplomacy that was unabashed about the country's place in the world. The rise in assertiveness predated Mr. Xi. The Beijing Olympics in 2008, followed shortly after by the global financial crisis starting in the West, triggered a sense of triumphalism about the China model.

When Mr. Xi took over, Deng's mantra of "hiding brightness, biding time" was swiftly buried. Instead, as he declared at the 2017 Party Congress, China was "moving to the centre stage of the world", part of what he called "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation". That surging sentiment, of being unapologetic about what the Party portrays as China's destiny, had made its presence felt in Chinese social media, the arts, and in cinema. Enter the film *Wolf Warrior* in 2015, which neatly captured the mood, telling the story of a Chinese special forces soldier fighting foreign mercenaries in Africa and coming to the aid of Chinese citizens. At the very end of the movie, which became a huge hit in China, the soldier approaches a barricade while transporting his compatriots to safety. He simply holds up a Chinese passport in the air, and is promptly waved through.

This development coincided with Mr. Xi urging Chinese officials and official media to, as he put it, "tell China's story well". An increasing number of Chinese diplomats took to Twitter and many tried to outdo the other with their declarations of commitment to the mission. And, importantly, for many of them, their messaging wasn't directly primarily to their audiences in the countries they served in, but to the 1.4 billion people back in China.

This mission, hence, carried an inherent tension: messages that appealed to the domestic audience at home often didn't do very much to further Chinese goals abroad. The COVID-19 conspiracy theory popularised by Mr. Zhao was a case in point. Within China, it became a widely held view despite no evidence. In the U.S., it triggered a backlash from the Donald Trump administration and plunged an already worsening relationship to new lows.

If the post-Zhao era may eschew some of his unconventional approaches (he famously changed his social media name to "Muhammad Zhao" while serving in Pakistan), the shift in tone in messaging isn't likely to alter the broader trends in Chinese diplomacy acquiring a harder edge.

That was indeed the message from one of the officials who now occupies Mr. Zhao's podium. Asked if the end of the Zhao era may mean a change in Chinese diplomacy, the current spokesperson, Wang Wenbin, responded, "China is committed to its foreign policy goal of safeguarding world peace and promoting common development.....At the same time, on issues of principle that bear on China's sovereignty, security and development interests, we would never waver in our resolve to firmly uphold them. This is the proud duty and sacred mission of Chinese diplomats."

THE GIST

- The idea of China's diplomats needing to be "warriors" goes back to the PRC's founding and former Premier, and first Foreign Minister, Zhou Enlai
- Zhou, who essentially became the founding father of Chinese diplomacy, came up with this approach of the diplomatic corps being the PLA in civilian clothing
- Chinese diplomats, like the soldiers of the PLA, serve the Party first, and then the State. Keeping the Party surviving is their number one goal. Diplomacy follows a distant second.

The wannabe kingmaker

Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma

The TIPRA Motha chief, who demands a separate 'Greater Tipraland', seeks to unite Tripura's different tribal communities under his party's banner

Sobhana K. Nair

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

All eyes are on Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma, the Tirpura royal scion and chairman of the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (or TIPRA Motha), and the alliance he will pick ahead of the Assembly election in Tripura, because of the influence this two-year-old party has on the State's tribal constituencies.

Just two-months before the April 2021 election to the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), Mr. Debbarma founded the TIPRA, which registered a stunning victory by winning 18 of the 28 seats. The TIPRA was the disruptive vehicle that displaced the usual power brokers in the State. Left parties that ruled the council since May 2015 could not win a single seat; nor did Mr. Debbarma's former party, Congress, and the BJP's ally, the Indigenous People's Party of Tripura. Only the BJP appeared somewhat insulated from the storm unleashed by the TIPRA, winning nine seats.

Mr. Debbarma hit the national headlines when he walked out of the Congress after a public showdown with its national leadership, which he accused of playing deaf to the State's sentiments in September 2019. He was heading the Congress State unit when he resigned. With the victory in the council election, he established himself as a major player in State politics. With its sway over the tribal belt, the CPI (M), which is aiming for a larger anti-BJP alliance, is keen on having the TIPRA Motha on its side. The BJP, meanwhile, is watching nervously from the sidelines. The TIPRA Motha, in less than two years of its existence, has grown into the stature of a kingmaker.

Constitutional rights

The party is going into this year's election with the slogan of '*thansa*', which means "unity" in Kokborok, the *lingua franca* of most of the north-eastern State's 19 tribal communities, and a demand for Greater Tipraland, which he insists is key to protecting the Constitutional rights of the tribal population. The Greater Tipraland includes the region under the TTADC and 36 other villages within the Tripura State boundaries.

Mr. Debbarma is an unusual politician. On Twitter, he describes himself as a sportsman, musician, wannabe mimicry artist, magician and animal lover. At Tripura Castle in Shillong, according to some estimates, he has over 100 pet dogs. Videos of him strumming guitar and belting out Bon Jovi's *It's My Life* or dribbling football have often made waves.

Mr. Debbarma has spent most of his life at Tripura Castle in Shillong. Speaking at a TED Talk event in Shillong in 2014, he said he got into politics by default. "It was 25th February, 1996 and 1:30 am, I remember the date because I was watching the Champions League (football match). There was a knock at the door, my *chowkidaar* (security guard) informed [me] that a few armed men are at the gate. Turned out they were policemen, who without a warrant or any evidence arrested my sister, just on the basis of her ethnicity. That was the first time that I felt acutely conscious of my ethnicity," he said.

While it may have been the moment of personal awakening for him, Mr. Debbarma did not exactly stray into politics, he was born in it. His parents have served in Parliament and the Assembly for multiple terms. And his family, the Manikya dynasty, had been ruling the Twipra Kingdom from the early 15th century to 1949.

Mr. Debbarma's politics has centred on upholding and preserving the tribal cultural identity. Thus, one of the prominent strains of his campaign has been to give prominence to the Kokbrook language, fuelling allegations that he is playing divisive politics dividing the State on parochial lines of tribals versus Bengalis. He denies the charge and claims the TIPRA Motha will contest outside the tribal belt too. Many of his critics also point out that while he is championing Kokbrook, his royal ancestors are responsible for the downfall of the language, since they gave Bangla primacy over it.

His well-wishers and critics are both watching Tripura closely to see whether Mr. Debbarma and TIPRA Motha's gambit will be successful or not.

The house of Moon

Unification Church

A religious group of South Korean origin often described as a cult, the Church has come under the spotlight after the assassination of former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe last year

Diksha Munjal

The phrase 'Shukyo Nisei', literally translating to 'religion second generation', featured in the annual list of the top 10 Japanese buzzwords for 2022, curated by Japanese publisher Jiyu Kokumin Sha. The phrase refers to children of parents who are devout followers of a religious group and the children are essentially born into the particular group's faith. While 'Shukyo Nisei' is not associated with the membership of any specific group, it came back into the Japanese lexicon after the brazen assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on July 8, 2022. Abe's 42-year-old assassin Tetsuya Yamagami on Friday was indicted by Japanese prosecutors on charges of murder and violating the country's gun laws.

Yamagami, who fashioned a makeshift gun out of metal pipes to carry out the assassination, confessed to investigators that he targeted Abe over his ties to the Unification Church, saying that he had long-held a "grudge" against the religious group, which he claimed had pushed his mother into bankruptcy and destroyed his family. Yamagami decided to target the former Premier after watching a video of Abe's virtual appearance in September 2021 at the digital Rally of Hope organised by the Universal Peace Foundation, a Church-affiliated organisation, under the acting leader of the Church, Hak Ja Han, the widow of its founder Reverend Sun Myung Moon.

Mass weddings

The Unification Church, formally known as the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, often described as a 'cult' by critics, was founded by the late Moon, a self-declared messiah, in 1954 in South Korea.

Moon was born into a family that later converted to Christianity in northwest Korea in 1920 when it was under Japan's occupation. During the Korean War, he fled from Pyongyang to the South Korean city of Pusan and laid the ground to start his own church. A 2010 investigation by NPR noted that Moon said his purpose on earth was to complete the mission of Jesus, who had appeared to him when he was a poor teenager. According to the Reverend, Jesus was not supposed to be crucified but marry and raise a family. This, he said, is why he matched thousands of men and women and officiated their weddings at the Unification mass-wedding events.

The Church, known for its ultra-conservative, anti-communist views, first expanded its international reach in Japan in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Moon, who died in 2012, began tapping into the Japanese demographic by invoking traditional family values and leveraging a feeling of guilt over the country's past colonisation of the Korean Peninsula.

Moon, an ardent Korean nationalist, asked his followers – or Moonies as they are colloquially known – to sacrifice everything to the Church to rid of the sins of their country and ancestors.

Researchers have noted that in order to propagate the Church's beliefs and his own conservative and anti-communist views, Moon began his political outreach to leaders with similar views in Japan, the U.S. and other countries. Abe's grandfather Nobusuke Kishi, also a former Japanese Prime Minister, reportedly helped Moon found the Church's political wing, the Federation for Victory Over Communism.

While Moonies were told to donate in order to be freed of sin, reports had revealed that Moon and his family used the massive donations to set up a business empire, which included owning the U.S.-based conservative newspaper *The Washington Times*, the New Yorker Hotel in NYC, a conglomerate called the Tongil group, and a defence equipment manufacturing company, among others.

According to Yamagami's uncle, his father had died by suicide, the grief of which pushed his mother toward the Church. He said the Church managed to extract nearly 100 million yen ($736,000) from his mother over two decades. In the aftermath of the Abe killing, the government launched a probe into the Church, enacted a law to restrict donations to religious groups, and help the victims of the group's exploitation.

INBRIEF

D-Mart Q3 profit rises 6.7% to ₹590 crore, sales climb 25.5%

Avenue Supermarts Ltd., which owns and operates the retail chain D-Mart, on Saturday reported a 6.71% increase in consolidated net profit to ₹589.64 crore for the third quarter ended December. Revenue from operations rose 25.5% to ₹11,569.05 crore, while total expenses surged 27.02% to ₹10,788.86 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing. PTI

U.S. FDA pulls up Sun Pharma for lapses at Gujarat plant

The U.S. health regulator has pulled up drug major Sun Pharma for manufacturing lapses, including failure to follow appropriate written procedures designed to prevent microbiological contamination of drug products, at its Gujarat-based plant. In a warning letter, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) pointed out various lapses at the Halol plant which produces finished pharmaceutical products. PTI

FSIB recommends names for MD posts of BoB, BoI

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, on Saturday recommended names for the posts of managing directors of Bank of Baroda and Bank of India. The bureau has recommended Debadatta Chand for the position of MD & CEO in Bank of Baroda and Rajneesh Karnatak for MD & CEO in Bank of India, FSIB said. The selection was done by the bureau based on interviews held on Saturday. PTI

HDFC Bank Q3 profit rises 18.5% on higher core income

Advances expand 19.5% while deposits climb 19.9%; Provisions dipped to ₹2,806 crore from the ₹2,994 crore seen a year earlier and the ₹3,240 crore recorded in the September quarter

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

HDFC Bank on Saturday reported an 18.5% increase in standalone net profit to ₹12,259.5 crore for the third quarter ended December, helped by a rise in core income.

Core net interest income grew 24.6% to ₹22,987.8 crore, on the back of a 19.5% increase in advances. However, trading income dipped to ₹261.4 crore from ₹1,046.5 crore. At a time when the banking system is grappling with a 'war for deposits' as seen in the sharp divergence between the credit and deposit growth numbers, the lender seems to be comfortably placed, with a 19.9% growth in total deposits. The share of the low-cost current and saving account deposits was 44% in the overall deposit base, which was a decline from the 47.1%.

The gross non-performing assets ratio was stable at 1.23%. The bank set aside ₹2,806.44 crore as provisions, which is lower than the ₹2,994 crore seen a year earlier and the ₹3,240.13 crore seen in the September quarter. Asset growth was led by commercial and rural loans which grew 30.2%, while retail advances rose 21.4%.

Banking on growth
At a time when deposit growth has lagged credit growth for the sector, HDFC Bank's metrics seem comparable on this count

- Share of low-cost current and savings account deposits was 44%, a decline from 47.1% a year earlier
- Asset growth was led by commercial and rural loans, which grew 30.2%
- Retail advances expanded 21.4% from a year earlier

'Australia deal could open more doors for Indian pharma firms'

Clearances from other nations taken as valid in an agreement will help avoid delays

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The interim free trade pact with Australia may not immediately enhance India's pharmaceutical exports Down Under, but offers a major relaxation on factory inspections that can pave the way for more such deals with developed countries and fast-track Indian firms' market entry, said Pharmexcil director general R. Uday Bhaskar.

Australia is a $14.6 billion pharma market, with generics constituting 12% and OTC products 18%, and the bilateral Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) that came into force in late December provides duty-free access for India's pharmaceuticals. In 2020-21, Indian pharma firms' exports to Australia were worth $387 million.

'Quicker clearances'

"Apart from market access, the most important breakthrough in the pact is fast-tracking of clearances for pharma products by utilising reports of comparable regulatory authorities from countries like U.S., U.K., Japan and Canada," Mr. Bhaskar added.

"This will avoid duplication of factory inspections by utilising Good Manufacturing Practices reports of comparable regulatory authorities and will prove helpful" for India's free trade negotiations with other developed nations.

About 55% of India's pharma exports go to highly regulated markets and it has the highest number of USFDA-approved facilities, so the pharma industry and government are requesting similar treatment from other countries during trade talks. That a developed country like Australia has conceded this request helps strengthen India's case, Mr. Bhaskar said at a discussion on the ECTA hosted by PwC.

While there may not be 'any significant increase in exports to Australia in the near future', expeditious clearance for Indian products will help infuse confidence in other countries too, Mr. Bhaskar said.

"Australia is a key market in the Oceania region and this could influence others in the region like New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea to take a positive view of Indian products," he explained.

"The difference in pricing between patented and generic drugs is not very significant in Australia, unlike in markets like the U.K. and the U.S., so generic drugs may grow slower. The Australian government is also thinking of reducing their healthcare expenses," he noted, adding that India could be an alternative supplier for the country's Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients needs.

Granules plant gets three U.S. FDA observations

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Drugmaker Granules' finished dosages (FDs) and pharmaceutical formulation intermediates (PFIs) facility in Gagillapur, Hyderabad has received three observations on completion of an inspection by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA).

"The Gagillapur facility has completed the U.S. FDA's pre-approval inspection from January 9-13 with 3 observations," Granules said in a filing.

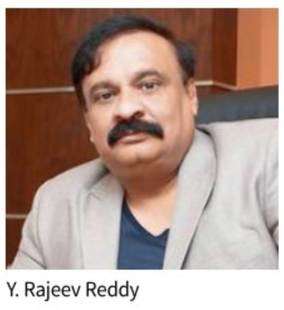
'Country Club Hospitality will turn debt-free by Q1 of FY24'

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Country Club Hospitality & Holidays Ltd. (CCHHL) would become a debt-free company within the next two quarters, said its chairman and managing director Y. Rajeev Reddy.

"We have brought down our outstanding debt from ₹600 crore to less than ₹60 crore under extraordinary conditions as our revenues were hit by more than 50% during the COVID period," he said.

Over the last three to four years, CCHHL reduced its debt by disposing of 12 mid-size properties in India for about ₹240 crore and one in Dubai for ₹300 crore. These properties were lying idle, said CFO M. Ram Kumar.


Y. Rajeev Reddy

According to him, CCHHL would clear the debts by Q1 of FY24 and this would enable the firm to start saving cash of ₹30-40 crore from the next quarter, which would otherwise be used for paying bank interest.

"We are going to focus on improving club activities and at the same time foray into the real estate business, which is our core strength. Currently, we are developing two million sq. ft of land in Hyderabad and Bengaluru," Mr. Reddy said. On expansion, he said the company would enter the north, northeast and west regions, as well as explore some more locations in the south.

MFIs to play leading role in India's economic growth: study

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Microfinance institutions, which have acted as a financial support system to low-income households by offering credit access to six crore borrowers in the last few years, will play a leading role in the growth process of India, according to a study.

From February 2017 to June 2022, the MFI sector underwent several changes in terms of inclusivity and expansion, as per the study conducted by consultancy major PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and the Association of Microfinance Institutions of India.

'Targeting poverty'

The global market size of the MFI industry is expected to grow by $122.46 billion from 2021 to 2026 at a compound annual growth rate of 11.61%, they said. Moreover, global development agencies and several governments have made concerted efforts to alleviate poverty through micro-credits, they added.

From 2017, the Indian MFI industry embraced the digital route by using online delivery channels, mobile banking and e-wallets, paving the way for the sector to adopt digitisation at a large scale.

The future course of the industry will be determined by the ability of MFIs to forge partnerships, develop new products and investment channels and leverage technology.

The challenges that the MFI sector will face are the diverse nature of customer segments such as small farmers, vendors and labourers.

'Ease tax deduction norms on property sale by NRIs'

BUDGET FOCUS

Sudhakar Sethuraman
Vijayalakshmi Kartik

Sudhakar Sethuraman

Digitisation has helped make India's tax administration and compliance more efficient and simpler.

Online tax return forms with pre-filled data have been made possible with the use of technology by way of information gathering (annual information summary and taxpayer information summary) and also by making it available for taxpayers in a single place, ie the tax portal.

Taxpayers have also witnessed the benefits of leveraging technology in the form of faster processing of tax returns and quicker receipt of refunds. While these have improved taxpayers' experience, the list of asks still stands out, especially from non-resident Indians (NRIs).

NRIs have been investing in India for several reasons and are required to file their tax returns. Until last year, NRI investors were required to file Form ITR-2, since they were precluded from using ITR-1,which is applicable only to resident taxpayers.

However, tax authorities had introduced the common ITR forms in 2022 which could be used by NRI investors by filling in only the relevant sections. Budget 2023 could also bring in a few changes from a taxation/practical perspective for NRIs.

Tax withholding

Where NRI investors have long-term capital gains, for instance, from sale of immovable property, the buyer of the property is required to deduct tax at 20% on the sale value. While long-term capital gains are taxable at 20%, the TDS is required on the entire sale value, resulting in higher TDS than the tax liability, thereby resulting in refund. To address this, NRI investors apply for the lower tax deduction certificate which provides some relief in reducing the rate at which tax is deducted by the buyer.

NRI investors can apply to the tax office for a lower rate of TDS by applying online in the tax portal. From the time of application to the availability of the lower TDS certificate, it could take about 2-4 weeks. This process could be further automated for using information already available in the tax portal and make the lower TDS certificate available within a shorter time-frame.

However, Budget 2023 could also consider reducing the rate of TDS from 20% to 10%,which would help reduce the wide gap between the tax liability and taxes withheld.

The tax authorities accept certificates issued by chartered accountants (CA) for various purposes including Form 15CB for payments to non-residents. Similarly, the authorities could consider providing a lower TDS certificate based on capital gains computation (arising from the sale of property) certified by a CA in a format that can be prescribed by the tax authorities. Further, the format (Form 13) could also be simplified to include details of sale consideration, cost of acquisition, indexation benefit in arriving at the capital gains and in order to determine the lower rate of TDS.

Holding period

Classification of an asset as short-term or long-term would depend on the threshold/holding period for each type of asset. For example, debentures listed in India need to be held only for 12 months to be classified as long-term capital asset and resulting capital gain is taxable at 20%. However, debt-oriented mutual funds need to be held for 36 months for the gains to be taxed at 20%.

In order to encourage investments and to bring out parity it is suggested to revise the period of holding even in respect of debt-oriented mutual funds.

Basic exemptions

Where NRI investors have only incomes that are taxable at specific rates (such as long-term capital gains), they lose the benefit from basic exemption limits available for resident individuals. However, where a resident individual has LTCG (taxable at 20%) as his only income, he is entitled to adjust LTCG against basic exemption limit and the balance LTCG is taxed.

Considering that surcharge and education cess increase the tax outgo even if the long-term capital gain is taxed at 20%, the benefit of adjustment of these incomes against basic exemption limit could be extended to NRI investors as well.

(Sudhakar Sethuraman is Partner, Deloitte India and Vijayalakshmi Kartik is Manager, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP)

GOOD LEADER

Rahul will be an excellent India skipper, feels Andy Flower

IPL franchise Lucknow Supergiants coach Andy Flower believes that K.L. Rahul can be an excellent skipper for the Indian team. "He is an outstanding young man and really good leader, he is very calm, measured, he is good company. I respect him and really enjoy working with him."

UNDER THE LENS

FIFA opens disciplinary proceedings against Argentina

FIFA said on Friday it had opened disciplinary proceedings against Argentina for "offensive behaviour" during its World Cup final triumph over France last month. Emiliano Martinez made a lewd gesture with his goalkeeper of the tournament trophy after the match, before being filmed mocking Kylian Mbappe.

THE WAIT ENDS

Gasquet roars back to stun Norrie for his 16th ATP crown

French veteran Richard Gasquet won his first ATP title in nearly five years as he fought back to stun second seed Cameron Norrie in the final of the Auckland Classic on Saturday. In a gruelling match, Gasquet prevailed 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 over the British World No. 12. Gasquet was emotional after winning the 16th title of his career.

BACK TO WINNING WAYS

American Davis breaks six-year title drought in Hobart

American qualifier Lauren Davis won her second WTA title on Saturday to end a six-year drought when she swept past Italian Elisabetta Cocciaretto in the Hobart International final. The 29-year-old outlasted her higher-ranked opponent 7-6(0), 6-2. Davis, ranked 84, won her only singles title in Auckland in 2017.

The Netherlands runs rings around a hapless Malaysia

There wasn't much the Asian outfit could do, except try and learn from the masterclass, as van Dam, Janssen, Beins and Croon find the target to give a perfect start to the Dutch campaign

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Uthra Ganesan
ROURKELA

The Netherlands toyed with a hapless Malaysia, playing at an easy pace and yet dominating the proceedings, to win 4-0 in its opening Pool C match of the World Cup at the Birsa Munda International Stadium here on Saturday.

Easy pickings: The Dutch celebrate Beins' strike for the third goal against Malaysia. BISWARANJAN ROUT

All over the ground

The Dutch, finalists last time, were all over the ground, running at a speed that the Malaysians could barely keep pace with and passing the ball around with minimum challenge.

It was a masterclass and Malaysia would take back valuable lessons from the game.

Thijs van Dam put the Dutch ahead in the 20th minute and Jip Janssen made it 2-0 four minutes later, slotting in a penalty stroke, for an unnecessary tackle by Amirul Azahar, into the bottom right corner with ease.

At half-time, the scoreboard may have read 2-0, but for most of the first two quarters, the ball barely crossed into Dutch circle.

Malaysia finally began showing a semblance of structure on resumption, holding on to the ball longer and trying to push ahead with short passes.

There wasn't much the 11th-ranked team could do, though, against a side it had lost 0-7 to for a 15th place finish in the 16-team tournament in 2018.

With the crowd – it was a near-full house even for the two day games and without India playing – getting restless and asking for some attacking play from the Asian side, Malaysia even managed to earn a couple of penalty corners in the third quarter of the contest.

However, the Dutch cleared those with ease and once the initial momentum was lost, it was back to playing in the Malaysian half for extended periods of time.

In fact, even on the few occasions that the Malaysians managed to get the ball into the Dutch circle, it barely crossed in front of the goal.

Instead, the Dutch added two more in the final quarter, the last one 14 seconds from time as *The Oranjes* came away with the perfect start to their campaign.

The result:

Pool C: Netherlands 4 (Thijs van Dam, Jip Janssen, Teun Beins, Jorrit Croon) bt Malaysia 0.

Confident India takes on aggressive England

Uthra Ganesan
ROURKELA

Heir apparent: Pathak's good show under the post has helped him stake his credentials as Sreejesh's, right, successor. BISWARANJAN ROUT

The last time India and England faced off was in a pool match at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, a game that had more lessons for both sides than the 4-4 scoreline would suggest. After contrasting wins in their respective opening World Cup games here, their face-off on Sunday would not just be a virtual fight for the top spot in Group D but also a chance to prove they had moved on from the errors of their previous meeting.

At Birmingham in July last year, the Indians stamped their dominance to take a 3-0 lead, playing near-perfect hockey - before losing their collective form and minds to pick up a series of cards, playing with a man down for almost the entire second half and conceding goals on a platter.

And with England declaring its intention to play its own version of 'Bazball" or attacking,risk-taking brand of hockey, it won't be easy for the host

It won't be impossible either. Against Spain, India's attack was sharp and targeted and the midfield of Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh and Akashdeep Singh was relentless in finding the gaps. The defence, of course, was the star with players literally putting their bodies on the line and Krishan Pathak pulling off a series of brilliant saves.

But most importantly, India proved it had learnt its lessons and could hold and adjust its structure to shifting opposition plans in its 2-0 win against Spain without losing discipline even though Abhishek's suspension in the crucial fourth quarter would have definitely been spoken about in the team meeting, as would have the missed penalty corners.

The aggressive game played by England would test India's defence a lot more but also hopefully allow the Indians to run more freely.

Match schedule

On Sunday

Spain v Wales, 5 p.m.
England v India, 7 p.m.

On Monday

Malaysia v Chile 1 p.m.
New Zealand v Netherlands, 3 p.m.
France v South Africa, 5 p.m.
Argentina v Australia, 7 p.m.

Job well done: Belgium players celebrate after a goal. PTI

Relentless Belgium thrashes South Korea

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Belgium pumped in five goals in the last 30 minutes to trounce a fighting South Korea 5-0 and begin its Hockey World Cup title defence in style at the Kalinga Stadium here on Saturday.

Germany, too, endured the challenging phase of a goalless first half to beat a gritty Japan 3-0 in the other Pool-B encounter.

Its sturdy defence helped Korea deny World and Olympic champion Belgium any advantage in the first two quarters.

The Red Lions, opting not to field the experienced John-John Dohmen due to flu, explored both flanks and earned two penalty corners in the first half but could not breach the Korean citadel.

However, drag-flicker Alexander Hendrickx drew first blood by converting a short corner in the opening minute of the third quarter.

The goal made the Koreans commit frequent mistakes inside the circle and let Belgium gather some rhythm by scoring through Tanguy Cosyns, Florent van Aubel, Sebastien Dockier and Arthur de Sloover.

Korea suffered as it could not utilize its six penalty corners.

A below-par Germany, which could not capitalise on its four short corners in the first half, also witnessed a similar script against Japan.

Its captain Mats Grambusch clinically deflected in a variation to score from a penalty corner early in the penultimate period.

The Japanese resistance crumbled after that.

Christopher Ruhr doubled the lead by completing a superb counter-attack with a spectacular goal.

An unmarked Thies Prinz made it 3-0 in the final quarter.

The results: Belgium 5 (Alexander Hendrickx 31; Tanguy Cosyns 43; Florent van Aubel 50; Sebastien Dockier 52; Arthur de Sloover 58) bt South Korea 0; Germany 3 (Mats Grambusch 36; Christopher Ruhr 41; Thies Prinz 49) vs Japan 0.

Seasoned players and their experiences

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

The charm of the Hockey World Cup inspires several seasoned players. Argentina has three – Lucas Vila and Matias Rey, who made their debut in 2006 and are playing in their fifth World Cup, and Augstin Mazzilli, competing in his fourth, including three in India.

"We know how to face some situations. We know what it means to lose, what it means to finish third or 12th. So this is something we need to share with our younger teammates," said Mazzilli.

Vila rightly said his generation saw the growth of Argentina into an Olympic champion. "We know each other, we have played lots of matches together, we know the story of the team. We got better from a really low ranking. We are proud to be part of this team," said Vila.

Kookaburras great Eddie Ockenden valued competing with other elite sides. "I really enjoy the challenge of playing against fantastic teams, playing around my teammates. I am trying to help the team win matches."

Goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh also takes pride in representing India in his fourth World Cup. Koreans Nam Yong Lee and Jonghyun Jang, who first played in this event in 2006, are still assets for their team.

New Zealand not at its best, but is still good enough for Chile

Aashin Prasad
ROURKELA

It wasn't the perfect performance, but New Zealand would take the 3-1 win over Chile in the opening match of Pool C in the FIH World Cup on Saturday.

The Blacksticks raced to a 3-0 lead inside 20 minutes before Chile put up a fight. The South American nation will take back a small piece of history with its first-ever World Cup goal in the final quarter.

New Zealand probed Chile's goal from the start with its slick passing and movement. The goal came through Sam Lane's strike from an acute angle after the ball was moved smartly from the left to the right with Nick Ross finding Lane in space. Lane's sweeping hit was on target and flew in between Adrian Henriquez's legs.

Historic moment: Contardo, facing camera, is congratulated by teammates on scoring Chile's first-ever Cup goal. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Two minutes later, Blair Tarrant made a brilliant run along the byline and played the pass along the goalmouth where Sam Hiha missed with his first attempt but managed to poke the ball into a near-empty net while sprawled on the floor. Hiha added a second in the second quarter when Simon Child pounced on a defensive error to play-in the Kiwi striker to score the team's third.

Chile scored in the 50th minute through Ignacio Contardo's reverse hit.

The result: New Zealand 3 (Sam Lane 10, Sam Hiha 12, 19) bt Chile 1 (Ignacio Contardo 50).

Hockey India in discussions to revive HIL, hoping to host it post Paris Olympic Games

Uthra Ganesan
ROURKELA

When the Hockey India League was suspended indefinitely in 2018 after five editions, it was an abrupt end to not just an ambitious plan to glamorise and popularise the sport in the country but also to a process that saw Indian players not just developing their skills but also expanding their vision and becoming more confident.

While there have been sporadic rumours of the HIL being revived with even reports of it coming back as a five-a-side event, nothing concrete has happened on ground. Now, however, there are clear signs that the league is one of the priorities for new Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey.

"We are trying to get everything finalised and in place to restart the Hockey India League.

" It is something we are serious about. We are also discussing with the International Hockey Federation about having a separate and fixed window for the HIL in the international calendar," Tirkey exclusively told *The Hindu*.

"In fact, we are also keen on a women's league. We hope to have concrete details very soon, maybe in the next couple of months once the World Cup is over. If everything works out fine, we hope to hold it towards the end of next year after the Paris Olympics."

While there is no official confirmation, sources confirmed that after cricket and kabaddi, Adani Sportsline is one of the leading corporate houses in talks for owning one of the franchises.

"Even JSW have been positive in their intentions and their association with the World Cup is indicative of that. But things are still in the developmental stage," sources said.

Tirkey has been focussing on development of hockey at the grassroots since taking over, writing to associations and academies to focus on developing drag-flickers and goalkeepers and bringing in specialised coaches for these.

Rashford fires United to crucial victory over City

Associated Press
MANCHESTER

Marcus Rashford struck the winner as Manchester United came from behind to beat Manchester City 2-1 in the Premier League on Saturday.

United issued a statement of its title intent with victory in the 189th Manchester derby to move within a point of the reigning champions.

Substitute Jack Grealish had put City ahead in the second half, but goals from Bruno Fernandes and Rashford secured the win for Eric ten Hag's team at Old Trafford.

The win sends United up to third place. It's the team's ninth straight victory in all competitions.

Meanwhile, Liverpool's woe worsened as Brighton & Hove Albion winger Solly March netted twice early in the second half and set up another goal in a 3-0 home win that lifts it above the Reds and up to seventh in the standings.

The results: Premier League: Manchester United 2 (Fernandes 78, Rashford 82) bt Manchester City 1 (Grealish 60); Brighton 3 (March 47, 53, Welbeck 81) bt Liverpool 0; Everton 1 (Onana 39) lost to Southampton 2 (Ward-Prowse 46, 78); Nottingham Forest 2 (Johnson 56, 85) bt Leicester 0; Wolves 1 (Podence 48) bt West Ham 0.

Serie A: Napoli 5 (Osimhen 14, 65, Kvaratskhelia 39, Rrahmani 55, Elmas 72) bt Juventus 1 (Di Maria 42).

INBRIEF

Shwetha and Shafali shine as India begins campaign in style

Opener Shweta Sehrawat smashed an unbeaten 92 after skipper Shafali Verma blazed away to a 16-ball 45 as India crushed South Africa by seven wickets in the inaugural Women's U-19 T20 World Cup on a rousing note here on Saturday. India reached the target at Willowmoore Park, Benoni, in 16.3 overs.

The scores: South Africa 166/5 in 20 overs (Simone Lourens 61, Madison Landsman 32, Shafali Verma 2/31) lost to India 170/3 in 16.3 overs (Shweta Sehrawat 92 n.o., Shafali Varma 45).

Ross Adair's half-century helps Ireland level series

Opener Ross Adair struck a brisk 65 as Ireland levelled a three-match Twenty20 series against Zimbabwe with a six-wicket victory in Harare on Saturday. Zimbabwe made 144 with captain Craig Ervine top scoring on 42 and Ireland knocked off the runs with two balls to spare, setting up a series decider on Sunday.

The scores: Zimbabwe 144 in 20 overs (C. Ervine 42, Graham Hume 3/17) lost to Ireland 150/4 in 19.4 overs (R. Adair 65, A. Balbirnie 33). **Toss**: Ireland.

New Zealand clinches first ODI series win in Pakistan

Glenn Phillips smashed an unbeaten half-century as New Zealand secured a series victory over Pakistan with a two-wicket win in the third and final One-Day International here on Friday. Phillips scored 63 off 42 balls, hitting four sixes and as many fours, to rescue New Zealand from a precarious 181 for five in its pursuit of a 281-run target. His knock overshadowed Fakhar Zaman's 101 as Pakistan made 280 for nine in its 50 overs.

The scores: Pakistan 280/9 in 50 overs (Fakhar Zaman 101, Mohammad Rizwan 77, Agha Salman 45; Tim Southee 3/56) lost to New Zealand 281/8 in 48.1 overs (Finn Allen 25, Devon Conway 52, Kane Williamson 53, Glenn Phillips 63 n.o.). **Toss:** Pakistan; **MoM:** Phillips.

Yuki Bhambri, Saketh Myneni claim Challenger doubles title

Top seeds Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni came through a cracker of a doubles final with their reputation enhanced as they recorded a 2-6, 7-6(7), [14-12] victory over Christopher Rungkat and Akira Santillan in the $80,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Bangkok on Saturday. The champion team collected 75 ATP points and $4,645. The runners-up won 50 points and $2,700.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1, MTV (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30 a.m.
BWF Malaysia Open: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10.30 a.m.
India vs Sri Lanka: 3rd ODI, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
Hockey World Cup: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5 & 7 p.m.:
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8.45 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10.30 p.m.

MONDAY

Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3 & 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.
Hockey World Cup: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1, 3, 5 & 7 p.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1..30 a.m. (Tuesday)

India, firing on all cylinders, aiming for a clean sweep

With the host in intimidating form Shanaka's men need to up their game considerably against a side that features some exceptional batters, including two of the game's all-time greats

SRI LANKA IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Warming up: Arshdeep, Kuldeep and Chahal, in the background, hone their skills in Thiruvananthapuram. K. MURALI KUMAR

Cricketers aren't the only famous Sri Lankans in India at the moment. Shehan Karunatilaka, who won the prestigious Booker Prize just three months ago, was, in fact, in this city till a couple of days back.

Karunatilaka, whose debut novel *Chinaman: The Legend of Pradeep Mathew* is rated by *Wisden* among the greatest books on cricket, is now in Kozhikode for the Kerala Literature Festival. At the inaugural ceremony of the festival on the Kozhikode beach, he spoke of how similar the landscape and the people of Sri Lanka and Kerala are.

Feeling at home

The Lankan cricketers, who have arrived here for the final ODI against India, are likely to feel at home in these environs, as they try to stop the host from completing a clean sweep in the three-match series, having lost at Guwahati and Kolkata.

If India batted the Lankans out in the first ODI, the bowlers came to the fore in the second, dismissing the visitors inside 40 overs. With the host looking in such intimidating form, Dasun Shanaka's men need to up their game considerably at the Greenfield Stadium on Sunday.

The Lankan captain has looked in good nick on this white-ball tour. He scored his second ODI hundred at Guwahati and before that, had scores of 45, 56 not out and 23 in the T20Is.

Twenty-three-year-old Nuwanidu Fernando, who made 50 on his debut before being run out in the last match, has shown promise. But Sri Lanka's top-order – especially someone like Kusal Mendis – has to bat deeper, against a side that features some exceptional batters, including two who are among the game's all-time greats in the format.

Wonderful memories

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma had put on a scintillating display in the only ODI at this venue, against the West Indies four years ago. The fans would fancy an encore. They would also be looking forward to the strokeplay from the likes of Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer and K.L. Rahul.

And let's not forget Hardik Pandya and Axar Patel, who seems to be getting better and better with the bat. Not many might envy Sri Lanka's bowlers.

The Indian bowling has shown its depth in the series. The fiery Umran Malik and the skilful Mohammed Siraj have fired.

In the last match, Kuldeep Yadav yet again made his chance count, with a Man-of-the-Match performance. That meant Karunatilaka wasn't the only one who reminded us about that rare species in cricket – the Chinaman.

The teams:
India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umran Malik and Arshdeep Singh.
Sri Lanka: Dasun Shanaka (Capt.), Kusal Mendis, Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Wanindu Hasaranga, Ashen Bandara, Maheesh Theekshana, Jeffrey Vandersay, Chamika Karunaratne, Dilshan Madushanka, Kasun Rajitha, Nuwanidu Fernando, Dunith Wellalage, Pramod Madushan and Lahiru Kumara.
Match starts at 1.30 p.m.

'We have always believed in Axar's batting potential'

Revelation: Axar Patel's batting has given the team management extra options in the all-rounder department. PTI

M.R. Praveen Chandran
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Axar Patel's batting in recent times has been a revelation. Everyone knew his ability as a bowler but it is his lower-order batting that has caught the eye and, to some extent, made up for Ravindra Jadeja's absence in white-ball cricket.

India batting coach Vikram Rathour said the team management had always believed Axar Patel had potential with the bat and that it raised extra options.

"He is really batting well at the moment. He has worked on his batting. The kind of all-rounders we have, three guys can bat really well. Washington Sundar, Axar Patel and I am sure Ravindra Jadeja will be back soon. As a team it gives us extra options," he said.

On the third ODI against Sri Lanka, Rathour said it was another opportunity for the team to iron out grey areas. He also chose to put to rest the speculation on coach Rahul Dravid's health saying the former India player was fit and was with the team.

"We have won the series, but there are still certain grey areas we would like to work on. Tomorrow's match will be one more opportunity to resolve that," he said.

Emulating India

Sri Lanka coach Chris Silverwood said his team needed to replicate the way India exploited the conditions. He expected the bowlers to apply pressure and the top six batters to be more consistent.

As a former fast bowler, Silverwood said he was very much impressed with Umran Malik. "I do enjoy seeing fast bowlers in action. I am impressed with the areas he bowled and he hit the length hard and got bounce. There is a lot to learn for us from the way he has bowled in this series," said Silverwood.

The Lankan coach was also impressed by the progress shown by young players like Nuwanidu Fernando and Dunith Wellage on this tour.

Swiatek the strong favourite among women

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek and top seed said on Saturday she was ready for an "intense" opening Australian Open match.

Poland's Swiatek begins her Grand Slam campaign on Monday against Jule Neimeier, the German World No. 68 who reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon last year.

Swiatek is a strong favourite in the absence of last year's retired champion Barty.

Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic own the two largest collections of Grand Slam trophies in the history of men's tennis. Both are in their mid-30s; no one knows how much longer they'll be at the top of the game.

Nadal is the defending champion, but he's had a bad stretch – 0-2 so far in 2023 – and having won just one of his past seven matches. Djokovic began this trip with a tune-up title in Adelaide and has won 30 of his past 31 tournament contests.

Top seeds in action on Monday
Men: 1-Nadal vs. Draper, 3-Tsitsipas vs. Halys, 6-Auger-Aliassime vs. Pospisil, 7-Medvedev vs. Giron, 10-Hurkacz vs. Martinez.
Women: 1-Swiatek vs. Niemeier, 3-Pegula vs. Cristian, 6-Sakkari vs. Yuan, 7-Gauff vs. Siniakova, 10-Keys vs. Blinkova.

Mumbai City qualifies for the play-offs downing a resolute ATK Mohun Bagan

ISL-9

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Mumbai City FC beat a resolute ATK Mohun Bagan 1-0 and entered the Indian Super League play-offs at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Saturday.

Lallianzuala Chhange netted the winner as the Islanders posted their ninth straight win for 36 points from 14 matches. ATK MB remained in fourth with 23 from 13.

Mumbai City showed a fantastic blend of control and attack and created openings in the ATK Bagan box almost at will. The visitors could have established a two-goal lead in the first 10 minutes but for ATK MB goalkeeper Vishal Kaith, who made two spectacular saves from Chhangte's attempts. Kaith, however, was powerless to stop the Mumbai City winger's thunderous shot in the 29th minute.

Chhangte celebrates scoring Mumbai City's winner.ISL/FOCUS SPORTS

Mumbai City pressed for a bigger lead but could not find a way past the ATK MB custodian again as he stopped at least three good attempts.

ATK MB was better in the second halft, and it MCFC goalkeeper Phurba Lachenpa's turn to be the saviour.

He stopped at least four clear attempts from the home attack with the best coming in the 66th minute when he saved midfielder Carl McHugh's header by diving to his left. ATK MB attacked relentlessly but failed to find the equaliser.

The result: ATK Mohun Bagan 0 lost to Mumbai City FC 1 (Chhangte 29).

Satwik & Chirag pair bows out

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's impressive run ended with a semifinal finish after the pair went down in three games to the Chinese duo of Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang in the Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament here on Saturday.

The World No. 5 Indian pair put up a brave effort but Liang and Wang, ranked 17th, showed better nerves in the closing stages to register a 21-16, 11-21, 21-15 win.

World championships bronze medallists Satwik and Chirag will be in action at next week's India Open Super 750 tournament in New Delhi.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

BCFC eases past Rebels

BCFC defeated Rebels FC 2-1 in the KSFA Youth premier football league.

The results: **U-21**: Alchemy International drew with Deccan FC 0-0; BCFC bt Rebels FC 2-1; Mazaz FC drew with BYFL 0-0; FC Mangalore bt Raman SA 5-0; **U-15**: Play Smart drew with BIFA 3-3; YBEFC bt BSS School 10-0.

Abhishek Gowda's effort goes in vain

Abhishek Gowda's 32 points went in vain as Bangalore Kings lost to Chennai Heat in the INBL Final basketball league.

The results:
Chandigarh Warriors 75 (Lalit Pawvidya 18, Kanwar Gurbar 19, Manjot Sidhu 17) bt Delhi Dribblers 48 (Rajeev Kumar 15, Piyush Meena 11).
Kochi Tigers 93 (Sejin Mathew 23, Vaishkh 20, Lalrina Renthlei 18) bt Mumbai Titans 84 (Mandep Singh 32, Anmol Sharma 20, Sayyed Mohamed 15).
Chennai Heat 92 (Muin Beik 18, Vishnu Prasad 10) bt Bangalore Kings 77 (Abhishek Gowda 32, Pratyanshu Tomar 15, Anil Kumar 11).

Morale-boosting win for Bengaluru as it beats Odisha

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC secured a second win on the bounce for only the first time this campaign as it beat Odisha FC 3-1 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday.

The win still leaves Simon Grayson's side three points adrift off a playoff position (16 points from 14 matches to FC Goa's 19 from 13). But it will be a morale-booster ahead of the business end where of the six remaining games four are at home.

BFC scored first in the 25th minute through Rohit Kumar, whose weak shot after a penalty box scramble rolled into the net. Odisha vehemently protested, including coach Josep Gombau who was booked on the touchline, for it thought Roy Krishna, who was besides the 'keeper, was offside. But the ball had actually deflected in off Odisha's Narender Gahlot.

There was, however, no dispute over the second strike three minutes later. Roy Krishna worked the ball on to N. Sivasakthi's path on the left flank, dashed into the penalty area to receive a perfectly weighted ball from his junior partner and slotted it home. Javi Hernandez could have put the result to bed in the 40th minute, but couldn't toe-poke successfully after having carried the ball from the half line.

Odisha hit back after the break, with Diego Mauricio earning a penalty and then converting. Defender Parag Shrivas erred, neither clearing the ball nor blocking Mauricio's path, before goalie Gurpreet Sandhu clumsily brought the Brazilian down to concede the spot kick.

But the contest settled into a sedate pace from there on, with no clear-cut chances for either team. Substitute Pablo Perez eventually sealed it in injury time, making it the first time this season BFC has scored thrice. Odisha, with just one win from six games, is in danger of frittering away a solid start.

The result: Bengaluru FC 3 (Rohit 25, Krishna 28, Perez 90) bt Odisha FC 1 (Mauricio 50).

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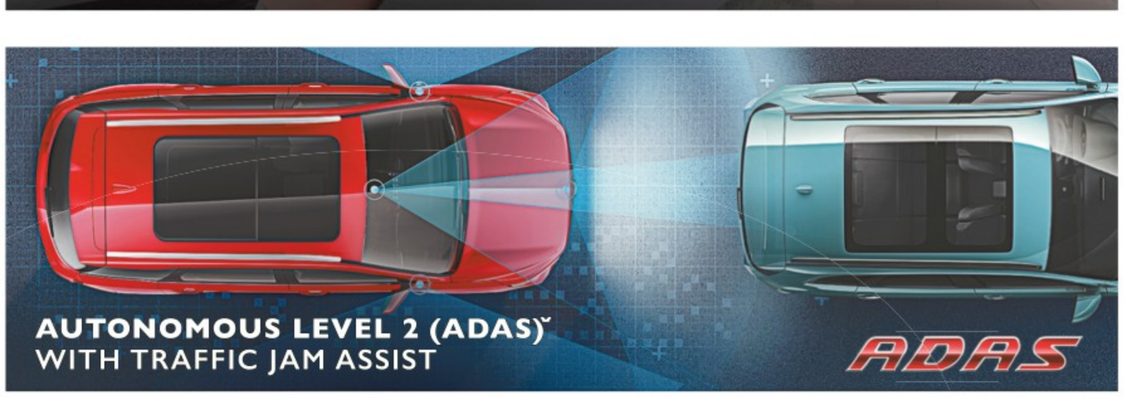

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